A CENTURY OF COOPERATION

IN NEBRASKA

1863-1963

by

Mrs. P. O. Marvel

A brief history of the Cooperative work of
the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ)
in the state of Nebraska

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Marvel, Lena. (Mrs. P.O.)
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A century of cooperation in Nebraska, ... [1963.] (Card 2)
the present convention."--Pref., p. [16]
Appendix (p.[1-13]9: Christian churches and places of meeting started cooperatively since 1855, by Mrs. T. V. Hubbell and Mrs. P. O. Marvel.
1. Disciples of Christ--Nebraska--History. I. Hubbell, Mrs. T. V. II. Nebraska Fellowship of Christian Churches. III. Hubbell, Mrs. T. V. Christian Churches and places of meeting started cooperatively since 1855. IV. Title V. Title: Christian Churches and places of meeting started coope ratively since 1855.

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APPENDIX

CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND PLACES OF MEETING STARTED COOPERATIVELY SINCE 1855

by

Mrs. T. V. Hubbell

and

Mrs. P. O. Marvel

The source material used for this compilation was "History of Nebraska" by Andreas, 1882; "History of the Churches of Christ in Nebraska" by W. A. Baldwin; the year books of the Christian Churches from 1897 to 1962; a few local church histories on file in the State Office; and, "We are the Dead", by John Alber. Because of the limited time we were not able to contact individual churches. We were astounded at the number of churches that had been established in Nebraska only to live a few years and be disbanded. In the true sense of the word many of these were not churches as we understand the term but were temporary meeting places for a small group or the location (school house or home) where an evangelistic meeting was held. But as we looked at charter member lists we found that many of the National leaders of the last generation came from these small churches. And we could say with Mr. Baldwin, "The disappearance of so many names of these earlier churches is in no sense a fault of the early workers. One could as well say that the disappearance of the churches in Debre, Lystra, Antioch of Syria, and Jerusalem is evidence of the failure of Christianity and of the Apostolic college as well as of Paul and his co-laborers. These churches upheld the banner of Christ in their localities, and many who were baptized into Christ's body there carried the light of the gospel with them to other fields, like those Jerusalem Christians who when scattered abroad went about preaching the Word."

We are publishing this list as a beginning. If there are mistakes or additions we would appreciate it very much if you would write us so that eventually we could have a correct compilation.

CHURCH OR MEETING PLACE	COUNTY	ORGANIZED OR FIRST LISTED	BY WHOM	DISPOSITION IF NO LONGER OPERATING	SOURCE
Aiken School House	Dixon	1903		last listed 1905	year book
Alda	Hall	Before 1897		Dropped 1897 Sold 1899	year book
Alford	Boyd	Org. 1899		No other yr. book	year book
Allen	Dixon	Before 1896		Last listed 1899	year book
Amherst	Buffalo	Before 1897		Last listed 1903	year book
Arborville	York			Only record "We are the Dead," 1925	
Armada				Only record "We are the Dead," 1925	
Alliance School House	Box Butte	School house mtgs. 1897		Dropped 1898	year book
Alliance	Box Butte	Meeting by R. F. Whiston 1907 Org. 1911			year book local church history
Anselmo	Custer	Before 1897	Revived 1911 S. R. McClure	Federated	year book
Ansley	Custer	1893			year book
Arnold	Custer	Before 1897		Dead, property sold	year book
Arapahoe	Furnas	Before 1896	A. C. Corbin		year book
Aurora	Hamilton	Before 1897			year book
Alma	Harlan	1885			
Auburn	Nemaha	1875 Harmon School House	D. W. Shurtleff		50th Anniv. booklet
Angus	Nuckolls	Ox Bow School House Before 1882 (Became Angus 1918)	W. T. Newcomb		Hubbell record year book
Ashland	Saunders	Before 1897			year book
Ash Grove		Before 1897		Dropped 1897	year book
Albion	Boone	Before 1897		Dropped 1897 Relisted 1905 Dropped 1947	year book
Avoca	Cass	Before 1897		Dropped 1935	
Antioch	Richardson	Reorganized 1903 Reorganized 1922	Dr. Forest Austin E. M. Johnson	Dropped 1919 Dropped 1932	year book year book
Ainsworth	Brown	1903	A. L. Ogden	Dropped 1906	year book
Adams	Gage (began in Hooker School House)	1906	Charles Cobbey & J. D. Forsyth	Dropped 1922	year book Church History
Bancroft	Cuming	Before 1897		Dropped 1903	year book
Banner	Custer	1918 (new church)		Dropped 1922	year book
Barada	Richardson	1872		Dropped 1895	Baldwin
Bee	Seward	Before 1897		Sold 1918	year book
Bethel	Clay	Before 1897		Dropped 1913	year book
Bellwood	Butler	Only record "we are the dead," 1925			

Bernard		Before 1897		Listed abandoned 1897	
Beulah	Polk	1899		Listed inactive 1911	year book
Bladen	Webster	1900		Dropped 1906	year book
Bliss	Holt	1898		Dropped 1900	year book
Bloomfield	Knox	Before 1897 Relisted 1911		Dropped 1908 Dropped 1915 or 1916	year book
Blue Valley	York	Before 1897		Became Bluevale 1900 Dropped 1920	
Brainard	Butler	Only record "we are the dead," 1925			
Burchard	Pawnee	Before 1896		Dropped 1920	year book
Broken Bow	Custer	1886	N. B. Alley		50 Year History
Beaver City	Furnas	1893	A. C. Corbin		Church History
Beatrice	Gage	1872	J. W. Allen		Baldwin
Blue Springs	Gage	1900			Year book
Burwell	Garfield	1898			year book
Bower	Jefferson	1870	Lewis C. Baur	Dropped 1927	Baldwin
Burnett		1884	N. B. Alley (?)		
Battle Creek	Madison	1945	Guy Dunning	Dead	Year book
Bayard	Morrill	1917 (new church)			
Brock	Nemaha	Early 1800's			
Brownville	Nemaha	1855	Joel M. Wood		Andrews 100 Year History
Bartley	Red Willow	Before 1897			Year Book
Bellevue	Sarpy	1943			Year Book
Beaver Crossing	Seward	Before 1897			Year Book
Belvidere	Thayer	1898			Year Book
Blair	Washington	1874	R. C. Barrow		present pastor
Blue Hill	Webster	Before 1897		Property sold 1960	
Belmont	Lancaster	1896		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Beldon	Cedar	Before 1897		Dropped 1908	Year Book
Bennet	Lancaster	Before 1897		Federated 1943	Year Book
Bradshaw	Hamilton	Before 1897		Inactive 1951	Year Book
Bloomington	Franklin	Before 1897		Furniture moved to Pleasant View 1930	Year Book
Bratton	Nemaha	Listed in 1882		Not in 1897	Andreas
Bethel	Nemaha	1900	Dropped in 1904 became another denomination		Year Book
Bethel	Pawnee			1905 planning to move to Vesta Became Vesta 1906	Year Book
Big Spring		1867	R. C. Barrow		
Butler (later Elk Creek Station)		1869	R. C. Barrow		
Cambridge	Furnas	1922	Dan G. Dungan	Dropped in 1926	Year Book
Cameron	Hall	1901		Dropped 1939	Year Book
Caldwell	Scottsbluff	Before 1897		Dropped 1918	Year Book

Carico	Red Willow	Before 1897		Dropped 1898	Year Book
Centerville School House		1901		Dropped 1902	Year Book
Champion	Chase	1900		Dropped 1905	Year Book
Chapell	Deuel	1921	W. C. Lessley	Dropped 1924	Year Book
Charleston	York	Before 1987		Dropped 1917 Building sold 1918	
Cheney	Lancaster	Before 1897		Dropped 1906	Year Book
Cooper	Hitchcock	Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Cordova	Seward	Before 1897	Reorganized 1903	Inactive 1911 Dropped 1914	Year Book
Cornell	Hitchcock	1905		Dropped 1911	Year Book
Crab Orchard	Johnson	Only record "we are the dead," 1925			
Craig	Burt	Before 1896		Dropped 1942	Year Book
Creighton	Knox	1897		Dropped 1900	Year Book
Crete	Saline	Before 1897		Dropped 1900	Year Book
Crystal Springs	Franklin	1897		Dropped 1909	Year Book
Cub Creek	Jefferson	Before 1897	Theodore Johnson	Dropped 1909	Year Book
Curtis	Frontier	1909	Samuel Gregg & J. G. Olmstead	Dropped 1917	Year Book
Clifton	Nemaha	1868	D. B. Coryell	Dropped before 1897	Baldwin
Cedar Creek		1871		shortlived	Baldwin
Chester	Thayer	1881	George Lobingier		Church History C. M. Foust
Craig	Burt	Before 1896		Dropped 1942 Building sold	Year Book
Coburg		Before 1897		Dropped 1931	Year Book
Cowles		Before 1897	Listed as Federated 1917		Year Book
Clearwater	Antelope	1909			Year Book
Clay Center	Clay	1875	W. T. Newcomb		Baldwin
Chadron	Dawes	Before 1897			Year Book
Cozad	Dawson	Before 1897			Year Book
Central City	Merrick	1907			Year Book
Charter Oak	Nemaha	Listed before 1882	R. C. Barrow	Burned 1949	Andreas, Baldwin
		1868		Became Talmage 1950	Church History
Cook	Johnson	1905		Sold 1939	Year Book
Centerview		Reorganized 1899--only listing			Year Book
Clear Creek	1882	Absorbed into Plainview and into Wann			Wann History
Cooper School House	Before 1897			Dropped 1897	Year Book
Danbury	Red Willow	Before 1897		Last listed 1914	Year Book
Dawson	Richardson	Before 1897		Dropped 1907	Year Book
Deloit	Holt	1933	Guy Dunning		
Divide		1903		Dropped 1905	Year Book

Dixon	Dixon	Before 1897		Dropped 1909	Year Book
Doniphan	Hall	1881	Rev. Sweeny	Dropped 1897	Year Book
Dry Creek	Pierce	Before 1896		Dropped 1897	Year Book
DuBois	Pawnee	Before 1897		Sold 1905	Year Book
Dunbar	Otoe	1897		Dropped 1907	Year Book
Dunning	Blaine	1904	O. A. Adams		
DeSoto		Before 1863		Dropped before 1897	Baldwin
Diller	Jefferson	Before 1896		Federated 1920	Year Book
Dorchester	Saline	Before 1897		Dropped 1928	Year Book
David City	Butler	Before 1897			Year Book
Deweese	Clay	1875 was Pleasant Hill	W. T. Newcomb		Christian Reporter
Douglas	Otoe	before 1896			Year Book
Derring School House	Hamilton	1895	N. B. Payne	Became Giltner in 1898	Christian Reporter
Elk Creek	Johnson	1869	R. C. Barrow	Discontinued 1920 Sold 1939	Baldwin Year Book
Ellis	Gage	1897		Discontinued 1899 Furniture sold	Year Book
Elsie Perkins		Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Elmore		1868	R. C. Barrow	Disbanded within 5 years	
Elm Creek	Buffalo	1910	H. G. Knowles		Anniversary Plate
Elmwood	Cass	Before 1897		Active	
Exeter	Filmore	Before 1897		Disbanded 1956? Bldg. sold	
Edison	Furnas	Before 1897			Year Book
Elwood	Gosper	1886	Brother Manchester		Church History
Ewing	Holt	1932	Guy Dunning		Year Book
Eikenberry School House	Cass	Before 1897		Became Plattsmouth	Baldwin
Edholm		Before 1897		Dropped 1919 Sold 1939	Year Book
Eddyville	Dawson	1902		Dropped 1944	Year Book
Edgar	Clay	1885	C. W. Hemry		Church History
Fairview	Buffalo	Before 1897	Reorganized 1904	Last listed 1924	Year Book
Fairview	Dundy or Chase	Before 1897			
Franklin	Franklin	Before 1897		Inactive 1900	Year Book
Freedom	Frontier	Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Funk	Phelps	Before 1897		Dropped 1905	Year Book
Fairbury	Jefferson	1871	Theodore Johnson		Baldwin
Fairfield	Clay	1878	W. T. Newcomb	United with Methodist Became Presbyterian 1962	Baldwin
Falls City	Richardson	1872 (Not continuous) 1876	W. E. Neal		Baldwin Church History
Firth	Lancaster	Before 1897		Dropped 1927	Year Book

Filley	Gage	Before 1897			Dropped 1928	Year Book
Fremont	Dodge	1891		J. H. McSparran		Church History
Glendale	Cass	Before 1897			Dropped 1898	Year Book
Glen Rock	Nemaha	Listed in 1882			Dropped 1898	Andreas Year Book
Good Hope	Furnas	1898			Dropped 1909	Year Book
Goose Lake	Antelope	1908			Dropped 1911	Year Book
Gordon	Sheridan	Before 1897			Bldg. sold 1921	Year Book
Grandview	Cass	Before 1896			Bldg. burned 1918? Weeping Water org. 1919	Year Book Livingston
Gretna	Sarpy	Before 1897			Bldg. sold 1903	Year Book
Gross	Boyd	1902			Dropped 1919	Year Book
Giltner	Hamilton	1898		N. B. Payne		Christian Reporter
Gering	Scottsbluff	Before 1897				Year Book
Guide Rock	Webster	Before 1897				Year Book
Greenwood	Cass	Schafer School House 1863 Organized 1865 Built in Greenwood 1874		D. R. Dungan		Andreas
Grand Island	Hall	1892		Theodore Johnson Active		Church History
Gates	Custer	Before 1897			Dropped 1897	Year Book
Grandview	Phelps	Before 1897			Dropped 1897	Year Book
Geneva	Fillmore	Before 1897		Reorganized 1904 Reorganized 1935	Dropped 1954	Year Book
Gibbon	Buffalo	1908		O. A. Adams	Dropped 1909	Year Book
Goehner	Seward	1913			Dropped 1918	Year Book
Haigler	Dundy	1911			Dropped 1919	Year Book
Hampton	Hamilton	Before 1897			Inactive 1914 Bldg. sold 1919	Year Book
Hickman	Lancaster				Only record "We are the dead," 1925	
Highland	Dawson	1898			Dropped 1906	Year Book
Hill School House	Knox	1898	Called Bloomfield 1906		Dropped 1909	Year Book
Holdrege	Phelps	1909		Elder D. B. Coryell	Inactive 1913	Year Book
Hooker School House	Gage	1886			Became Adams, 1906	Church History
Hull	Scottsbluff	1897			Dropped 1900	Year Book
Huntley	Harlan	1898			Dropped 1901	Year Book
Hastings	Adams	1898		J. W. Elliott		Hubbell notes
Harvard	Clay	1883		R. C. Barrows		Baldwin
Humboldt	Richardson	1860		John Mullis		Andreas
Hebron	Thayer	1870		L. J. Coryell J. Hendershott		Baldwin Church History
Honey Creek	Nemaha	Listed 1882			Not in 1897	Andreas
Hershey		before 1896			Dropped 1897	Year Book

Hendley		Before 1897			Year Book
Hamlet	Hayes	1921		Dropped 1931	Year Book
Highland	Meadow Grove	1914		Dropped 1919	Year Book
Hartwell		1899		Dropped 1901	Year Book
Hooker Creek		Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year BOok
Indianola	Red Willow	1900			Year Book
Imperial	Chase	Before 1897		Dropped 1898	Year Book
Ithaca	Saunders	Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Inavale		1898			Year Book
Illinois Settlement		1868	R. C. Barrow (midway between Nebraska City & Tecumseh)		
Johnson	Johnson	Before 1896 Listed in 1883 as Johnson Station - Andreas		Dropped in 1913 Bldg. sold	Year Book
Joint			"We are the dead," 1925		
Julien		Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Kennard	Washington	Before 1897		Inactive 1911	Year Book
Kenosha	Cass	1902		Dropped 1909	Year Book
Kings School House	Nemaha	1861	Became Shubert 1867		Church History
Knoxville	Holt	Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Kearney	Buffalo	Built 1879			Andreas
Kimball	Kimball	1960			Year Book
Kingston	Custer (Called Liberty, Liberty Chapel & Liberty Station)	Before 1897			Year Book
Kenesaw	Adams	1910		Dropped 1928 Bldg. sold 1939	Year Book
Liberty Ridge (also called Liberty)	Thayer	Before 1897		Dropped 1919	Year Book
Lanham	Gage	Before 1897		Dropped 1913	Year Book
Lawrence	Nuckolls	1900		Dropped 1905	Year Book
Lisbon		Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
London	Nemaha	1866	R. C. Barrow Closed books 1899	not listed after 1911	Baldwin Brownville History
Loomis	Phelps	Before 1897		Dropped 1908	Year Book
Lost Creek	Fillmore	Before 1897	"We are the dead," 1925		
Lushton	York	Before 1897		Dropped 1905	Year Book
Louisville	Cass		G. L. Emmons		
Lamar	Chase	1913			Year Book
Lillian	Custer	1908	S. A. Kopp		Year Book
Lexington	Dawson	Before 1896			Year Book
Liberty Pleasant Hill	Gage	Before 1897			
Lincoln	Lancaster				
Oak Valley		1904		Dropped 1905	Year Book
Bethany	1890		W. P. Aylesworth		Church History
East	1889		C. W. Hemry		Baldwin Anniversary Plate

First	1869		D. R. Dungan		Andreas
Havelock	1904		DeForest Austin		Church History
Southview	1912		E. J. Sias		Church History
Lincoln Third	1897			Dropped 1931	Baldwin
Lincoln Central		Before 1897		Dropped 1901	Year Book
Lincoln Valley	Hamilton	1871	Hampton		
Litchfield	Sherman	1906	O. A. Adams		Year Book
Liberty Station (called Liberty, Liberty Chapel & Kingston)	Custer	Before 1897			Year Book
Longwood		Before 1897		Dropped 1898	Year Book
Lodgepole	Cheyenne	1918	J. S. Beam	Never listed in Year Book tables	Year Book
Lyman	Scottsbluff	1922	C. W. Cooper		Year Book
Lockridge	York	1881	Elder Evans	Became York in 1883	Church History
Lavara		1899	Listed 15 members		Year Book
Larkin's School		1869	R. C. Barrow		
MapleGrove	Holt	1889		Dropped 1899	Year Book
Manderson		Before 1897		Dropped 1898	Year Book
Manley	Cass	1899		Dropped 1910	Year Book
Maple Creek	Dawson	Before 1897		Dropped 1899	Year Book
Maple Creek (called Precept)	Dodge	Before 1897		Dropped 1905	Year Book
Marquette	Hamilton	Before 1897		Bldg. sold 1904	Year Book
McCool Junction	York	1910		Dropped 1915	Year Book
Memphis	Saunders	1904	DeForest Austin	Dropped 1911	Year Book
Merna	Custer	Before 1897		Dropped 1898	Year Book
Meserve	Gage		"We are the dead," 1925		
Midland	Saunders	Before 1897		Bldg. sold 1918	Year Book
Mt. Zion	Box Butte	1899		Dropped 1904	Year Book
Mumford School House	Gage	1907		Dropped 1912	Year Book
Miller	Buffalo	1899			Year Book
Murray	Cass	1892	Monroe		Anniversary Plate
Magnet	Cedar	1903	J. S. Beem		Year Book
Maywood	Frontier	Before 1897			Year Book
Minden	Kearney	About 1885	J. A. Wilson		Year Book
Madison	Madison	1932	Guy Dunning		Year Book
Minatare	Scottsbluff	1929	James Tilsley Lowe & Andersons		Year Book
Mitchell	Scottsbluff	1906	R. F. Whiston	Federated 1917	Year Book
Milburne		Before 1897 - Called new church in 1918 - Dropped 1929			Year Book
McCook	Red Willow	1898	Reorganized 1905		Year Book
Messersmith School House	Loup	1921	Never listed in tables in Year Book		Year Book
Mason City	Custer	1907	O. A. Adams	Dropped 1926	Year Book

Mt. Clare		1909		No report after 1928 Dropped in 1943	Year Book
Mary	Brown	1914		Dropped 1926	Year Book
Mullen	Hooker			Dropped 1918	Year Book
Max		1920		Dropped 1925	Year Book
Monterey (12 miles west of Nebraska City)		1866	D. W. Shurtleff R. C. Barrow		
Nehawka	Cass	Before 1896		Dropped 1897	
New Helena	Custer	Before 1897		Dropped 1906	Year Book
New Hope	Saunders		"We are the dead," 1925 & Wann Booster, 1943 - A. J. Hollingsworth		
Norman	Kearney	Before 1897		Dropped 1905	Year Book
Nemaha	Richardson	1898		Dropped 1917	Year Book
Nemaha City	Nemaha	1865	T. K. Hansberry		Andreas Baldwin
Neligh	Antelope	1930	Guy Dunning		Year Book
North Bend	Dodge	1897			Year Book
Nebraska City	Otoe	1866	R. C. Barrow & J. B. Johnson		Andreas & Baldwin Church History
North Platte	Lincoln	1901	C. C. Atwood		Year Book
Norfolk	Madison	Before 1897 1906	R. F. Whiston	Dropped 1897	Year Book Year Book
Nelson	Nuckolls	1874 (Art. of Inc.) 1878 (Permanent)	Elder Hopgood		Nebr. Christian Andreas
Nora	Nuckolls	Before 1897	No report after 1914		Year Book
Nunda School House	Loup	1921		Dropped 1925	Year Book
North Kearney	Buffalo	Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Nesbit	1918		Never listed in Year Book tables		Year Book
Oak Valley (3 miles out on West "O")	Lancaster	1903		Only record	Year Book
Oconto	Custer	1918		Dropped 1922	Year Book
Oliver's Grove	Cedar	1898		Dropped 1920	Year Book
Orchard	Antelope	1909	S. R. McClure		Year Book
Osceola	Polk		only record "We are the dead."		
Ough	Dundy	1903		Dropped 1906	Year Book
Ox Bow (became Angus 1918)	Nuckolls	1876	Worthy T. Newcomb		Nebraska Christian
Oakdale	Antelope	1930	Guy Dunning		Year Book
Orchard	Antelope	1930	Guy Dunning		Year Book
Overton	Dawson	1889 Reorganized 1903	J. A. Hawkins J. K. Hester		Local History Year Books
Odell	Gage	1887			Church History
Omaha	Douglas				
Grant Street		1892		Became No. Side	Nebraska Christian
Irvington		1907			Year Books
Benson		1917			Year Books

First		1868 Reorganized 1878	Elder N. A. McConnell Rev. B. B. Tyler		Andreas
Florence		1897	Reorganized 1906		Year Books
North Side		1900			Year Books
South Side		1891			Church History
Miller Park		1918		Dropped 1930	Year Book
Ord	Polk	Before 1897			Year Book
Orleans	Harlan	Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Ohiowa	Fillmore	Before 1896		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Oak	Nuckolls	1907	Evon Forrell	Dropped 1917	Year Book
Page	Holt	1917	A. L. Hill	Dropped 1919	Year Book
Panama	Lancaster	Before 1896		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Plainview	Saunders	1874	Elder Yearnshaw	Listed inactive 1919	Wann Ded. Issue
Pleasant Hill	Nuckolls	1875		Became Deweese Church	Year Boo
Pleasant Valley	Saunders	Before 1897		Dropped 1907	Year Book
Pleasant Valley	Scottsbluff	1908		Dropped 1912	Year Book
Prairie Center	Buffalo	Before 1897		Dropped 1909	Year Book
Prairie Union	Thayer	1898		Dropped 1900	Year Book
Precept	Funas	1898		Dropped 1917	Year Book
Prosser	Adams	1908		Bldg. sold 1918	Year Book
Plattsmouth	Cass	Began Eikenberry School House 1860	C. P. Evans		Baldwin
Pleasant View Wilcox	Franklin	1918			Year Book
Palmer	Merrick	1897			Year Book
Peru	Nemaha	Before 1897	Louis Fisher		Dedication
Pawnee City	Pawnee	1865	D. R. Dungan		Andreas
Platte Valley		Before 1897		Dropped 1903	Year Book
Pleasant View	Boyd	1898		Dropped 1902	Year Book
Parks		1917		No report 1922	Year Book
Phelps		Before 1897		Dropped 1898	Year Book
Red Willow	Red Willow	Before 1896		Dropped 1910	Year Book
Republican City	Harlan	Before 1897		Dropped 1904	Year Book
Rising City	Butler	Before 1896		Inactive 1917	Year Book
Riverdale	Buffalo	1896			Year Book
Red Cloud	Webster	1896 Listed new church 1932		Federated 1917	Year Book
Rock Bluff	Cass	1862	James Connoran	Became Murray	Anniversary Plate
Rulo	Richardson	mentioned 1882		Dropped 1906	Year Book
Roseland		1900		Dropped 1907	Year Book
Roselma		1910		Dropped 1919	Year Book
Schuyler	Colfax	1899		Dropped 1909	Year Book
Seward	Seward	1898		Bldg. sold 1917	Year Book

Shelton	Buffalo	Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Silver Creek	Merrick	Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Spencer	Boyd	1900		Dropped 1903	Year Book
Springfield	Sarpy	1898		Dropped 1900	Year Book
Sterling	Johnson	1871	R. C. Barrow	Bldg. sold 1918	Baldwin
Summit	Butler	before 1896		Dropped 1919	Year Book
Superior	Nuckolls	Listed in 1882		Dropped 1917	Andreas
St. Deroin		1867		Dropped 1897	Baldwin
Salem	Richardson	1865	R. C. Barrow & T. K. Hansberry	Dropped 1940 Bldg. sold	Baldwin Year Book
Sidney	Cheyenne	1912	A. T. Hiett		Year Book
Sargent	Custer	1908	Samuel Gregg Bro. Currie		Year Book
Stamford	Harlan	Before 1897			Year Book
Shubert	Richardson	1867	D. R. Dungan		Baldwin
		1861 as King's School House			Church History
Scottsbluff	Scottsbluff	1900			Church History
South Bend	Cass	Before 1897		Bldg. sold 1917	Year Book
Stratton Wood School House	Hitchcock	Before 1897 Reorganized 1899		Community 1944	Year Book
Sunny Hill		Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Steward Precinct	York	Listed 1882		Dropped before 1897	Andreas
Sheridan	Nemaha	Listed 1882		Dropped before 1897	Andreas
Smithfield		Organized 1897		Never carried in Year Book	
State Line	Franklin	1907	W. R. Burbridge	Dropped 1940	Year Book
Sutherland	Lincoln	1912	M. C. Johnson W. C. Rishel	Dropped 1928 Bldg. sold	Year Book
Stella	Richardson	Before 1897		Federated bldg. sold 1943	Year Book
Shiloh Chapel		1899		Dropped 1902	Year Book
Salt Creek		Summer 1869	D. R. Dungan		
Teckamah	Burt	1900		Dropped 1909	Year Book
Thornburg	Hayes	1898		Dropped 1909	Year Book
Tilden	Madison	Before 1897		Dropped 1900	Year Book
Turkey Creek	Johnson		Only record "We are the Dead," Alber		
Talmage	Otoe	1905		Dropped 1925	Baldwin
Tate		Before 1897		Dropped 1898	Year Book
Thompson School House		Before 1897		Dropped 1898	Year Book
Trumbull	Clay	Before 1897			Year Book
Tecumseh	Johnson	1867	R. C. Barrows		Baldwin
Table Rock	Pawnee	1872	R. C. Barrows		Baldwin
Tyron	McPherson	1910	E. von Forrel	Dropped 1920	Year Book
Utica	Seward				
Ulysses	Butler	before 1896			Year Book

Unadilla	Otoe	1873	J. V. Johnson		
Union	Cass	Before 1896		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Virginia	Gage	1892	Rev. McFarlin		Nebraska Christian
Verdon	Richardson	1868	R. C. Barrows		Baldwin
Valparaiso	Saunders	Before 1897			Year Book
Vesta	Johnson	1906	Bethel became Vesta	Dropped 1928	Year Book
Valley	Douglas	1908	John T. Smith	Dropped 1919	Year Book
Vim		1909		no other listing	Year Book
Wagner	Custer			"We are the dead"	
Wahoo	Saunders	1899	Dropped 1900 Property sold 1903		Year Book
Walnut Grove	Nemaha	1898		Dropped 1904	Year Book
Waterloo	Douglas	1864 Discontinued 1871 Re-established 1881	D. R. Dungan R. C. Barrows		Andreas Baldwin
Wellfleet	Lincoln	Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Wesley Chapel	Boyd	1899		Dropped 1900	Year Book
Western	Saline	Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
West Point	Stanton	1897		Dropped 1900	Year Book
Wilbur	Saline	1876		Dropped 1909	Baldwin Andreas
Williamsburg	Phelps	Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Wood School House	Franklin	Before 1897		Listed "We are the Dead" Became Stratton	
Wolf Creek	Gage	Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Weeping Water	Cass	1919	Organized after Grandview burned	Active	Year Book
Wilsonville	Furnas	1909	A. C. Corbin Harry Mitchell & Burhl Gilpin		Church History
Wakefield	Dixon	Before 1897			Year Book
Wymore	Gage	1882			Andreas
Wayne	Wayne	1926			Year Book
West Union		Before 1897		Dropped 1898	Year Book
Waverly	Lancaster	Before 1897		Dropped 1897	Year Book
Waco	York	1899		Dropped 1943	Year Book
Wann	Saunders	1943			Year Book
Walnut Hill		1898		Dropped 1903	
York	York	1883	Elder Evans		Church History
Yutan		Mentioned by A. J. Hollingsworth in Wann Booster 1943			

PRESIDENTS OF THE NEBRASKA FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND ITS PREDECESSORS

1888 - 1889	J. Z. Briscoe (deceased)	
1890 - 1896	J. A. Beattie (deceased)	
1897	H. A. Lemon (deceased)	
1898	W. A. Baldwin (deceased)	
1899	F. A. Bright (deceased)	
1900 - 1901	E. von Forrell (deceased)	
1902 - 1906	Z. O. Doward (deceased)	
1907	J. J. Kirschstein (deceased)	
1908	J. . Davis (deceased)	
1909 - 1911	R. A. Schell (deceased)	
1910	J. W. Hilton (deceased)	
1911	J. M. Kersey (deceased)	
1912	T. A. Maxwell (deceased)	
1913	H. H. Harmon (deceased)	
1914	C. F. Stevens (deceased)	
1915	C. E. Cobbey (deceased)	
1917	R. C. Harding (deceased)	
1919 - 1920	E. L. Rouse (deceased)	
1921	H. E. Sackett (deceased)	
1922	J. C. McLucas	
1924	H. H. Harmon (deceased)	
1925	L. A. Brumbaugh	Phoenix, Ariz.
1926	G. A. Miller	York, Nebraska
1927 - 1928	P. R. Stevens	Valparaiso, Indiana
1929	C. O. Stuckenbruck	Lake City, Iowa
1930	R. E. Deadman	Princeton, Indiana
1931	F. K. Hargrove	Rapid City, So. Dakota
1932	J. H. Bicknell (deceased)	
1933	Gardner Miller	York, Nebraska
1934	Wayne Greene	Indianapolis, Indiana
1935	T. V. Hubbell	Lincoln, Nebraska
1936	R. B. Fouts	Albuquerque, New Mexico
1937	B. Erroll Parish	San Francisco, California
1938	Hugh Lomax (deceased)	
1939	Dewey Meranda	Pueblo, Colorado
1940	B. P. Baird	
1941	Paul Becker	Des Moines, Iowa
1942	W. F. Kohl (deceased)	
1943	F. H. Stephenson (deceased)	
1944	Harry Parsons	Kansas City, Missouri
1945	Charles Livingston	Scottsbluff, Nebraska
1946	N. F. Horn	Arapahoe, Nebraska
1947	A. L. Cole (deceased)	
1948	E. Phil Dubbs	Fremont, Nebraska
1949	Harry Sackett (deceased)	
1950 - 1951	Lowell Bryant	Indianapolis, Indiana
1952	Emmett Haas	North Platte, Nebraska
1953	Mrs. Albert Burt	Holdrege, Nebraska
1954	Joseph Houston	Albuquerque, New Mexico
1955	Mrs. P. O. Marvel	Giltner, Nebraska
1956	Earl Seitz	Kokomo, Indiana
1957	Grover Thompson	Tulsa, Oklahoma
1958	Mrs. E. Phil Dubbs	Fremont, Nebraska

1959	Marion Morton	Beatrice, Nebraska
1960	Mrs. F. W. Rowe	Omaha, Nebraska
1961	Ellis Votaw	Shenandoah, Iowa
1962	Mrs. T. V. Hubbell	Lincoln, Nebraska
1963	Charles Livingston	Scottsbluff, Nebraska

SECRETARIES OF THE NEBRASKA FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND ITS PREDECESSORS

1865 - 1885	R. C. Barrow & D. R. Dungan (deceased)	
1886	N. B. Alley (deceased)	
1888 - 1894	R. C. Barrow (deceased)	
1895	C. M. McCurdy (deceased)	
1896	W. A. Baldwin (deceased)	
1898	F. A. Bright (deceased)	
1900 - 1911	W. A. Baldwin (deceased)	
1912 - 1915	E. M. Johnson, Field Secretary (deceased) W. A. Baldwin, Corresponding Secretary (deceased)	
1916 - 1919	William Oeschger (deceased)	
1920 - 1922	O. L. Smith (deceased)	
1923 - 1944	John G. Alber	Lincoln, Nebraska
1945 - 1950	Austin Hollingsworth	Lincoln, Nebraska
1951 - 1955	Clayton C. McCaw	Lincoln, Nebraska
1956 - 1958	Emmett Haas	North Platte, Nebraska
1958 - 1960	David L. Kratz (deceased)	
1960 - 1961	Lawrence L. Williams	Lincoln, Nebraska
1961 - present	Norman R. Stacey	Lincoln, Nebraska

This history was written at the request of the Board of The Nebraska Fellowship of Christian Churches, for the Centennial Convention at Beatrice in April 1963. It was their request that the history cover particularly the coooperative organizational movement in Nebraska.

It is therefore not a history of individual churches, though in its early pages a few are mentioned, but rather a chronological history of the state conventions from the first "cooperation meeting" in 1863 to the present convention in 1963. There were a number of conventions where no notes or records were available. The history is written around personalities, events and trends of the times that have affected the growth of Nebraska Christian Churches.

An attempt has been made to give a picture of a body of people, beginning with a few courageous Disciples, scattered over the vast expanse that is Nebraska, developing into a brotherhood concerned with national and worldwide interests.

Acknowledgement is here given to the many persons who assisted and furnished materials for the writing of this history: The Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Nashville, Tenn., for their valuable suggestions; the Nebraska Fellowship of Christian Churches and Norman R. Stacey, its executive minister; Cotner School of Religion, for the use of their valuable records and papers; Miss Mayble Epp, of the United Christian Missionary Society, who so willingly made copies of early reports sent to the American Christian Missionary Society by D. R. Dungan and others; to other individuals who made valuable suggestions and loaned from their private libraries, books not available otherwise. Where quotes are taken from HISTORY, CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN NEBRASKA by W. A. Baldwin, HISTORY OF COTNER UNIVERSITY, Leon A. Moomaw, and R. C. BARROW, HIS LIFE AND WORK, by his Son Frank, they are so indicated in this history.

For the most part, however, information was gleaned from early records and minutes of conventions and board meetings, the state papers published by the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society and the Women's Missionary Society, and the Year Books as perhaps being the most reliable sources of information.

Upon the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill in 1854, Nebraska became a territory and settlement began. However, before this time farmers and others had entered the area, among them staunch Disciples and Disciple ministers. They were alert to the cause and anxious to plant churches. They found among the westward travelers some who were members of the Christian Church further east and were loyal to the principles for which the church stood. They found others willing to listen.

From available records, it seems that the first Christian preacher to deliver a sermon in the territory was a man named Foster, on June 15, 1845, not far from the present town of Ogallala.

The first Christian Church to be organized in Nebraska was in January, 1855 at Brownville through the efforts of Richard Brown and Joel M. Wood. Mr. Brown was the first settler in Nemaha County, who came from Tennessee to Missouri, and then on to the spot where Brownville now stands, in August 1854. The village of Brownville was named for him.

Nemaha County records (No. 1 page 221) state the Church of Christ at Brownville, Nebraska, met August 18, 1859 and was organized by appointing trustees ".....as this was necessary to hold title to real estate." The first building, Sept. 30, 1859, was purchased for the sum of $50.00, but for the four years previous meetings were held in homes, school buildings and wherever it was possible to secure a room.

There was much opposition from denominational groups, and often it was necessary to change meeting places during the course of "preaching meetings."

The intervening years from 1855 to 1862 congregations were established, or preaching points maintained, in some half dozen places. Struggles, hopes, disap-

pointments, successes and victories were the lot of all, as is true of perhaps all churches. Grasshoppers, drouths, tornadoes were to be expected and met with courage.

The church established at Rock Bluff in 1862 was the third Christian Church in the territory though this church never built a building there. The Desoto church, long since extinct, apparently was the second.

No early history of the Christian Church in Nebraska would be complete without mentioning C. P. Evans, D. R. Dungan, R. C. Barrow and a Mr. Mullis. They preached at many points and gathered together small groups of people and established preaching points. Population was sparse and at times the removal of one family, from whatever cause, would mean the disintegration of the work.

1863-1883

The first "Cooperation Meeting" was held in Rock Bluff, September 1863 probably in a schoolhouse or a home, since they had no building. Rock Bluff is directly east and a mile north of the present town of Murray, and the Murray Christian Church traces its history to this Rock Bluff Church.

There were six churches at this time, five of which had representatives at this first "Cooperation Meeting", namely Brownville, Plattsmouth, Omaha, London, Glenrock and Rock Bluff. R. C. Barrow in his report did not give the name of the body not represented, but he estimated that there were between three and four hundred disciples in the territory at that time.

In the autumn of 1864 the American Christian Missionary Society promised the help which had been asked for almost a year before at the first "Cooperation Meeting". But it was July 1, 1865 before R. C. Barrow became state evangelist, who then with D. R. Dungan served many years traveling over the territory, meeting many obstacles, indignities and indifference, and even open hostility on the part of saloon keepers and their patrons which were numerous. He received the munificent salary of $200 per year with the privilege of raising the rest of the living expenses on the fields served.

R. C. Barrow (R. C. Barrow, His Life and Work, by his son Frank, page 8) states "In December, 1864. . . . I learned that Alvin Saunders, governor of the territory, was a member of the church. At Plattsmouth, I, for the first time, met Bro. D. R. Dungan, whose name has been a household word in Nebraska for the last ten years."

"Cooperation Meetings" were not held every year, so it was not until the fall of 1865 that the second cooperation meeting or convention was held at Brownville, designated in the notice as the "Annual Meeting of the Christian Missionary Society of Nebraska" and signed by D. R. Dungan and R. C. Barrow.

In the report given by R. C. Barrow, state evangelist and corresponding secretary for the year ending October 1, 1884, is the statement: "At the first meeting of this body, seventeen years ago our cause in Nebraska was represented by ten feeble congregations, two preachers giving their entire time to the work of the ministry, five or six others who preached occasionally and three uncompleted houses of worship, none of which are now owned by our brethren."

Whether the name "Convention" used from then on, caused them to designate the 1867 meeting as the "first", ignoring the 1863 and 1865 "Cooperation Meetings" is not clear from the minutes. But it would seem the permanent organization dates from this 1867 convention.

Again from a report by R. C. Barrow at the 20th convention held in August 1887, we quote: "Every inch of ground has been hotly contested. Our warfare on Nebraska soil was begun against fearful odds. The denominations had established themselves in every town, hamlet and populous neighborhood, before we had gained a foothold in the territory, and the full coffers of the East supplied them with the sinews of war."

"When I was first called (July 1, 1865) to labor in Nebraska, not a house of worship had we in the territory, save an uncompleted structure in Brownville. The op-

position to our plea for simple New Testament Christianity, and the union of all Christians upon the Bible alone, was then far more intense and bitter than it is now. Houses of Worship were generally closed against us, and the groves, 'God's first Temples,' school houses, barns, and private dwellings were our places of worship. Persistent injurious misrepresentations of our teaching, purposes, and personal character and antecedents met us at every point, and threats of personal violence were frequently made."

"In 1864 the General Christian Missionary Convention heard the cry of the isolated brethren who had settled west of the Missouri River, and D. R. Dungan and (a few months later) myself were sent to their assistance. Not a preacher in the territory was supported by the brotherhood. There were a few brethren who preached as opportunity offered, gaining a livelihood from some secular vocation. Those who opposed missionary societies, and insisted upon 'the Lord's plan', carefully avoided the destitute and barren land."

The above quotations give a clear picture of the church in Nebraska in 1867, and the obstacles that had been overcome to the time when these "Minutes" state the First Convention was held.

The only reference found that might indicate a convention was held in 1868 was a notice under date of July 9, 1868 that the state convention was to be held in Nebraska City, August 14, 1869. This notice was signed by R. C. Barrow and D. R. Dungan, and might have been authorized by the 1868 convention.

The 1869 convention was held at Nebraska City, and R. C. Barrow at the 1887 convention before referred to, states: "At our state meeting held in Nebraska City in 1869 all of our preachers who were devoting their entire time to the work were present. They were D. R. Dungan, J. B. Johnson, and myself. Theodore Johnson, who is still with us, and John M. Yearnshaw, deceased, attended the meeting. Bro. Theodore Johnson had just arrived in the state, and Bro. Yearnshaw had settled in Lincoln and commenced to build our house of worship in the capital city, which was then a hamlet of a few houses. We had at that time about 500 brethren in the state, and three uncompleted houses of worship."

The 1870 state meeting was held in Lincoln in September in the new church building, opened for worship on July 3, 1870 by the small congregation. The building was located at the corner of 10th and K Sts. The Corresponding State Secretary in the 1886 convention made the following comment: "When Lincoln was selected as the place of meeting for the fourth session of this Convention, objection was made on the ground that it was "too far west."

State Secretary, D. R. Dungan filed a report at the 22nd meeting of the A.C.M.S. which contained the following statistics: "Churches in the state, 35; churches represented in the state convention, 29; aggregate membership, 1,490; Sunday Schools in good order, 10; average number of scholars, 500; subscriptions during the year, $814. 46; collected of these, $587.46; when all is collected, balance in treasury will be $69.46; received additions, 36; gained additions, 131."

The only indication that conventions or state meetings were held in 1871, 1872, and 1873 is the consecutive numbering of such meetings through the years.

However reports were given at the annual meetings of the General Christian Missionary Convention. The 1871 report indicates 40 churches in Nebraska but will collections of about half the preceding year, $423.95, and that the 40 churches were served by five pastors. J. Robinson was the delegate from Nebraska to this meeting.

From this meeting comes the admonition: "Let it be the duty of the state and district men to enlist every power for good the church possesses and to keep every influence at work, instead of attempting to supply single-handed the deficiency of preaching in every church, or adding new churches to those already suffering for want of care."

Nebraska had no delegate at the 1872 meeting but the report gives the following information; "In. . . . .Nebraska less money has been raised than during 1870-71,

owing to local obstructions, and the lack of a sufficient force in the field. Nebraska, only since May, has had part of the time of R. C. Barrow, Money raised $127.41, baptisms reported 22."

1873 lists R. D. Dungan president of the state board, and R. C. Barrow, state secretary, who reports to the General Christian Missionary Convention as follows: "The reports and statistics presented to our Convention were generally of an encouraging character. Though the results of our year of labor have not been all that we desired, or that the sanguine among us may have anticipated, it is believed that much has been done tending to the permanent growth and prosperity of the church throughout the state. The amount raised for strictly missionary work is $370.50, though no small part of the $4,218.25 paid for regular, and the $564.90 paid for transient preaching, was raised as a consequence of missionary labor. The additions reported are 337; new organizations four. It was unanimously resolved that we would raise for missionary purposes one dollar for each member of the church in the state during the ensuing year. . . . .Nebraska, for its opportunities, is doing well."

Barrow came to Greenwood for a meeting in February, 1874 and had some 47 additions, 33 of them by baptism. Dungan continued the meeting and 22 were added. The resulting church stirred itself to build a house of its own, and this was done in 1874. In September of that year (1874) the state convention was held at Greenwood.

The following resolution adopted at the General Christian Missionary Convention in October 1874 gives indication of the conditions prevailing in the area at the time;

"On motion of Bro. Burgess the following resolution was adopted: "Whereas, the people of Western Kansas and Nebraska, from various causes, have been placed in a state of fearful destitution and starvation; and

Whereas, our brotherhood is largely among those unfortunates, and the remaining brethren in those states are unable to give them any adequate aid; therefore

Resolved, that, as representatives assembled in this Convention, we express our sympathy with those suffering brethren, and hereby pledge ourselves to aid them all in our power.' "

A membership of 2,316 in 52 churches was reported; additions 533 Value of church property was listed at $23,112. New houses built, 3; freewill offering to this convention $10.00.

Again, only the consecutive numbering of the state meetings or conventions indicates that such were held in the years 1875 to 1883 both inclusive. The following information was gleaned from reports filed with the General Christian Missionary Convention through these years.

From the 1875 report; "Nebraska, where, when the General Board began to work (July 1, 1865) there were only little churches, now reports through her state evangelist 1,545 children in Sunday School, 136 teachers in Sunday Schools, and paid for all purposes $5,913.16."

1876 convention report; ". . . . .Nebraska has already attained very satisfactory statistical information."

Held at Plattsmouth, September 1876, the following resolutions were adopted, referring to organization of Sunday Schools: "1. That pastors and church officers urge the importance of this work and encourage the organization of schools wherever possible.

2. That Bible School workers organize Bible School Institutes as often as practicable."

". . . .And Nebraska, have Sunday School work in connection with their State Missionary Conventions."

At the 1877 meeting of the General Christian Missionary Convention is the comment from the proceedings: "Nebraska, with her 62 churches and 4,000 members, still works courageously on, supporting in part the energetic R. C. Barrow as the State Evangelist. He reports 237 discourses, 148 additions. . . . . ."

By October 1878 R. C. Barrow had been engaged to spend one-half of his time in Nebraska, at the "rate of one thousand dollars per annum." Of Nebraska, Bro. Barrow writes: "The various denominations spend at least one hundred thousand dollars annually in missionary work in this state. Take, for example, the Presbyterians. They have 96 churches in the state, aggregating 2,679 members. Of these churches, only four are self-sustaining; the others are aided by the Board of Home Missions to the amount of $15,000 annually. This large amount enables them to establish churches and build houses all over the state. It seems almost hopeless to battle with such odds against us. But with the above amount, or even half of it, it seems to me that we could soon win the whole state to the Lord. If even three preachers could be sustained here, we would feel strong; or even if I alone could be fully sustained to work according to my best judgment, it would contribute much to the advancement of our cause. I do not accomplish a tithe of what I could do if I were free to labor where I could do the most good, with no reference. Frequently, the cost of reaching an important point deters me from going where great good could be done. I trust that the coming Convention will understand the gravity of the situation, and the extent of the responsibility that rests upon us." Two orders were drawn to R. C. Barrow, $41.50 on account of salary, and $83.50, balance on account, a total of $125.00. Apparently that was the sum total of his salary for that year.

This comment from the proceedings: "Both these states (Kansas and Nebraska) are in better condition now than ever before for permanent work. The severe struggles of the earlier settlers for settlement and dominion have been superseded by the quieter pursuits of citizen life."

From the 1879 report to the General Missionary Convention, we learn that R. C. Barrow had been kept in the field all his time by the state society and the general society. He reports that "the prospects for successful missionary work in Nebraska are better than ever before." He had been working in the "vast region" north of the Platte river, "nearly half of the state" where there were five small congregations. He felt he was working successfully in this field, yet was saddened by the "contemplation of the great work that could apparently be done had we the men and means to accomplish it. I have labored, as best I could, in Nebraska fourteen years, and sometimes think I ought to rest; but with such precious interests at stake, and so many souls to save, I cannot rest till I reach my Father's house. The future is with God."

According to the copy of a telegram, the 1879 state convention was held at Dorchester in October of that year. Nebraska was commended by the general convention for being one of the states having sent in "the fullest report" to be inserted in the United States census to be issued in 1880. But no statistics are given for the year 1879.

The first preacher's meeting among the Disciples in the state was held at Unadilla in September, 1880 (Baldwin's History). Seven or eight ministers were in attendance. Also the first Auxiliary to the Christian Woman's Board of Missions was organized at Nelson on September 1, 1880, with seven chapter members. Mrs. Hopwood, the wife of the pastor at Nelson, was prime mover in the organization and its first president.

The work, during the past year, was carried by R. C. Barrow. He reported 200 additions, a gain of 64 over his last report the year before. Note the comment: "His success has been considerably greater than it was last year. His labors have been constant, abundant and well. Brethren Geo. Lobingier, Wm. Sumpter and others are with him entitled to worthy mention. Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado are among the most inviting and promising of our present mission fields. Work well done there now will yield a bountiful harvest in the future." Nebraska reported 98 churches, 56 preachers and 15,580 members.

We find that the Nebraska Woman's Christian Temperance Union was also active, for at this General Convention, this organization, represented in Nebraska by Mrs.

C. A. Hardy of Lincoln, called attention to the use by some churches of alcoholic wine as communion wine, and urged the use of "only the pure, unfermented juice of the grape."

The Committee on present mission fields reported that the "results of our missionary efforts in the state of Nebraska.....are exceedingly satisfactory and require their continuance."

The report also indicates 18 churches in Nebraska contributed to the general work. A number of these churches have not been listed in the Year Book for many years.

The proceedings of the General Christian Missionary Convention October 1881, reported that united with the Nebraska State Board, an evangelist had been kept in the field for full time. This must have been R. C. Barrow, for the comment continues "R. C. Barrow has labored with his accustomed vigilance, power and success." (153 were added to the churches). Also the note "The work in Nebraska under the leadership of Brother Barrow, is growing more and more into permanency. We think we cannot exaggerate the necessity and value of the work that is being done by this godly man." And it was recommended that assistance be continued to the extent that the funds in "our general treasury may justify."

During the year 1882, much the same work was done in Nebraska, with the help of the General Convention. This, with what the Nebraska state board could do, kept the state evangelist in the field at least most of the time and brought forth commendatory remarks "for the good and substantial work that had been done by R. C. Barrow in Nebraska." Special commendation was given the state board for "that part of the management that has aimed at a state-wide influence in locating their evangelists, as in Nebraska. . . ."

From the secretary's records (Nebraska) of the year 1883, we find that the officers were J. Z. Briscoe, president; Wm. Sumpter, vice-president; N. B. Alley, secretary; R. C. Barrow, corresponding secretary; C. M. Hunt, treasurer. At the October 8th meeting of the board, R. C. Barrow was employed as state evangelist and N. B. Alley, assistant evangelist, at a salary of $800.00 per annum for each.

At the Oct. 25-27, 1883 General Christian Missionary Convention R. C. Barrow reports as follows; "I have spent the entire year in the field, sustained, as in former years by the General Convention and the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society. I have labored more or less in twenty-five different places. At fifteen of these, I held protracted meetings, and at six points new organizations were formed. I have preached during the year 339 times and gained 229 additions, 83 by confession and baptism. I have collected $462.10 in the field, and have received from the Nebraska Society $168.95."

"The Nebraska Society has employed six other evangelists, more or less of their time, aggregating, for all, 368 days. Their united labors resulted in 65 baptisms and 102 other additions. They collected $355.47 and organized two new churches. There are now in Nebraska 116 churches, with a membership of 6,300. Fourteen churches have preaching weekly, nineteen semi-monthly, twenty-eight monthly, and forty-seven have no regular preaching. Only forty of these churches have houses of worship. There are now fifty-seven preachers living in the state. Of these, twenty-eight devote their whole time to preaching, and twenty-seven devote a portion of their time to secular pursuits. The churches raised for preaching and regular church work nearly $19,000 and raised for building and repairs about $14,000."

In the 1883 State Convention R. C. Barrow presented the needs of a Christian College for Nebraska. He made such a forceful appeal that a committee was appointed and the work of organizing a college under the state society was vigorously pushed forward, resulting in the establishing of Fairfield College the following year.

The minutes of the "Seventeenth Annual Convention" of the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society October 1884, held with the Church of Christ at Pawnee City, state that 100 delegates were enrolled and that J. Z. Briscoe was then president.

The Nebraska Christian Women's Board of Missions was organized during the 1884 convention, Mrs. N. B. Alley presiding chairman. This organization reported that there were societies at Nelson, Clay Center, Beatrice and Lincoln. Reports taken from the CHRISTIAN MONITOR indicate that contributions had been received from Nelson organized in 1880, through the years 1881 and 1882. THE MISSIONARY TIDINGS reported receipts from Nelson, Oxbow, Clay Center and Falls City for the years 1883 and 1884.

One of the chief reports of this convention concerned that of "W. T. Newcomb, financial agent of the Fairfield Normal and Collegiate Institute. He gave the convention a brief statement of the workings of said school, showing that although inaugurated and located within this year, it is now in successful operation with Profs. C. W. Hemry, O. C. Hubbell and Mrs. C. W. Hemry in charge who are able teachers with a reputation that gives assurance of success. About 40 students are enrolled ....."

About 70 churches made reports by letters, or through delegates, to the convention, and they exhibited in nearly every instance great growth and increased activity in church and Sunday School work.

Many calls were made for help from the different unoccupied localities, and "as our old Sister Mick of Red Cloud made such an earnest appeal for her town, it touched a tender cord in the heart of our good Bro. Wm. Sumpter, who offered to go....."

It was at this convention that we find beginnings were made "On the work of incorporation according to statutes, of this Society," and the following committee: N. B. Alley, R. H. Ingram, J. W. Deweese was appointed to "arrange our constitution and file our articles of incorporation". This occurred on Oct. 2, 1884.

R. C. Barrow continuing his work as state evangelist, had visited 27 places, 6 of them being new points, and had organized churches at Wakefield and Harvard. N. B. Alley and Martin Boles also did evangelistic work. The former had organized one church but put most of his time in raising money to build houses, pay church debts, and supporting preachers. Martin Boles spent his time north of the Platte River, and organized a church at Logan Grove. This area was almost destitute of churches "of our people," and the Committee on Missions of the General Convention recommended "as fields of special importance. . . .Nebraska."

No report of the 1885 - 18th Annual Convention - was available, but at the 1884 convention the committee on the location of the next convention reported "Falls City as the most desirable place that had asked for it, and on motion of R. C. Barrow the location was left to the board of officers, to be located as they thought for the best interests of the cause."

Reports were filed by R. C. Barrow and N. B. Alley much as in former years. (These are mentioned in some minutes but few statistics given). Monies received from the churches were in small, very small amounts measured by today's amounts, ranging from 70 cents to no more than $20.00.

The 19th annual convention was held at Fairfield, October 1886. We quote from the president's (J. Z. Brisco) address; "During the past year the churches of the state have enjoyed an era of peace, prosperity and success unequaled, we think, by that of any former year.....Churches have been organized at important business centers, which have been heretofore considered almost inaccessible to our plea; as

for instance, Weeping Water, Wymore and Red Cloud." He commented that the church in the capital city (Lincoln) made substantial advance in preparation for building; that the work at Walnut Hill Mission church (Omaha) "is now about completed."

N. B. Alley, secretary and evangelist in his report states; "Upon the whole, the work in that part of the state (north of the Platte River) is in a prosperous condition, and I recommend it to this convention as a rich mission field which should not be neglected. Three houses of worship were built, seven organizations effected, five preachers were placed at work, and, as nearly as I can get the statistics, nearly 500 additions reported."

R. C. Barrow in his report said, "I am able to count 134 churches with an aggregate membership of about 9000. Of these churches, 28 have weekly preaching, 47 semi-monthly, and 21 monthly."

The Sunday Schools, and nearly every church sustained one, were in a prosperous condition, and the Christian Woman's Board of Missions had multiplied its auxiliaries under the labors of Mrs. N. B. Alley.

Fairfield College reported 134 students enrolled, 7 studying for the ministry, and a number of ladies taking the Bible Course. "There is a noticeable increase of lady pupils during the present term" according to the report. A new building was in process of construction.

At this convention a Constitution was adopted. The recommendation of the committee that the "session of this society shall be held annually the first Tuesday after the first new moon in October" was amended to read "The annual meeting shall begin on the first Tuesday in October."

Fairfield had been recommended by some as a permanent location for the Annual Convention, but the Committee on Location reported "not recommending the permanent location, but that arrangements be made for entertaining it without imposing on the good sisters." This report was adopted. The Committee on Resolutions stated "that we have had a grand good convention....."

The 20th Annual Convention was held with the church at Fairfield, Clay County, August 1887, 46 churches having representatives present. The treasurer reported receipts for the past year of $394.34 and disbursements of $326.77. G. T. Smith, missionary from Japan, addressed the convention and "many curious things from that faraway land were exhibited and explained." Bro. F. M. Rains preached and took up pledges to the amount of $1105.00.

There had been some feeling among the brethren that the location of the college at Fairfield was against the school because of lack of major railroad facilities. Hence, when the business men of Lincoln offered a grant of 200 acres of land for a college there, it did not prove difficult to secure the necessary endorsement of the project by the state convention, although the missionary society was already sponsor for Fairfield College. A recommendation passed that a permanent committee of seven be appointed and vested with power to receive and accept propositions, to incorporate and to found a college if it was deemed wise - this to be located in Lincoln.

Another recommendation passed "that the chair appoint a committee of three to investigate the advisability of establishing an encampment for the annual gatherings of the brotherhood in this state, to be favorably and centrally located, and such committee report at the next annual meeting."

The secretary, Wm. Sumpter, closes his minutes with the statement; "Thus closed the most successful session in our history in this state."

The 21st convention met in August 1888 at the Christian Chapel at 10th and K Sts., Lincoln. R. C. Barrow, state evangelist, makes the observation "Notwithstanding all that has been done, the western and northern portions of the state are still a map of religious destitution, and promising cities in the older portions of the state are still unoccupied. Our strength is largely found in the southeastern portion of

the state, yet this region still offers peculiar advantages to the missionary of the cross. An organized congregation on our western border is a very uncertain quantity. Not that the disciples gathered in that region will be lacking in intelligence or zeal, but because of their liability to change their place of residence. Within a few months a congregation is liable to melt entirely away in removals."

Because of crop failure, pledges had not been paid with the usual promptness and the evangelistic work had been cut. J. Z. Brisco at the opening of the convention stated that "the question of finance should and doubtless will absorb much of the attention of the Convention during its session." He also complained that "this organization has been in the habit of allowing stirring appeals to be made by representatives of worthy enterprises, sometimes almost to the exclusion of its own work."

Fairfield college reported as doing excellent work during the past year, and "bids fair to rival any institution of its pretensions in our brotherhood."

The support of the General Society had been withdrawn and it became apparent that if the disciples distinctive plea, "the union of all Christians" was to be carried to the remote portions of Nebraska it would have to be done by Nebraskans.

Six houses of worship had been built during the year, including the "costly edifice in our capital city of Lincoln which is in process of building." There were now 85 houses of worship, and the number of organizations without houses of worship numbered 57.

Christians of the state were giving quite largely for the "conversion of the heathen, and the religiously destitute in our own land."

One day of the convention was given over to "University Day" for the laying of the Cornerstone as the crowning event of the day, and folk went to the site of the new University, earlier christened "Bethany Heights." Two Hundred boarded the Missouri Pacific train at 10:25 a.m. The station being three-fourths of a mile from the campus, many of the gentlemen pushed ahead on foot (even with the mercury peeping out of the top of the tube) while the ladies waited the arrival of carriages and two immense hay wagons that were pressed into service. It was declared an ideal location for a Christian University and "the future of this Christian and educational suburb is certainly bright." Articles of Incorporation of the Nebraska Christian Educational Board were adopted.

Dissatisfaction with year book reports was evidenced in the following resolution: "An effort should be made to get accurate statistics. Those published in the Year Book are not reliable in many instances, and the Year Book is made of no use for us in consequence." Just when the first Year Book was published could not be ascertained.

Another interesting note was the following: "It is to be hoped that all persons interested in important committee work will meet with these committees from time to time and favor them with their opinions and advice. If this rule is adhered to, much precious time of the Convention will be saved when reports of committees are finally presented."

Thirty-two churches out of a total of 106 had reported.

August 1889 the 22nd Convention met in "the beautiful auditorium of the new Christian Church at Lincoln," with 219 delegates enrolled. 87 congregations had houses of worship of their own and 51 were meeting as best they could without church buildings, thus a total of 138 congregations. Of these only 21 had their names on the list as contributing anything during the year to the state work "and this number includes sums given by six churches at the last state meeting who have not been heard from since."

A Bro. Eubank had served as evangelist during the months of October and November 1888 for the sum of $160.00. C. P. Evans had also been doing the work of an evangelist during the year. He traveled widely during the winter months. On reporting such a service with the Brownville group and which had been recently reorganized he said "and old Brownville was shakened as it perhaps had never been before."

J. Z. Briscoe was re-elected president; W. P. Aylsworth, first vice-president; A. Martin of Omaha, 2nd vice-president; Wm. Sumpter Unadilla, recording secretary and Edwin Jeary, Elmwood, treasurer.

The necessary steps had been taken during the year to consolidate the interests of Fairfield Normal and Collegiate Institute and the University at Lincoln under the same board of management. The walls of the university building were nearing completion, but was not completed until the new year. However, school was begun in one of the residence houses built by the trustees. Mr. Arthur Munson was the first young man to register, and Miss Alice Gadd (Mrs. A. D. Harmon) was the first young lady student.

The Christian Woman's Board of Missions held their annual meeting during the convention with 30 women present. Note this comment; "That the Christian Woman's Board of Missions had held its meeting in the afternoon, and had in no way asked for any money.....that for many reasons a contribution ought to be made by the audience for the Christian Woman's Board of Missions. A collection was taken up for this purpose amounting to $11.44." Secretary of the C.W.B.M., Mrs. Aylsworth, closed her minutes as follows: "Our meeting was not without inperfections and things forgotten, but it seemed to be the most business-like and best meeting we have had in the history of our work in this state."

The 23rd convention was held with the Church of Christ, Lincoln in August 1890. The president, J. Z. Briscoe called to the attention of the attendants that while fault had been found with the board for neglect in some parts of the state work, "when it was remembered that the great University of the Nebraska brotherhood had been completed and a large endowment secured within the last twelve months, could it be said that the state board had idled away its time? With Cotner University ably equipped for first-class educational work, would not the missionary interest of the state grow in the future as it had never done in the past?" In April, 1890 Christian University was named Cotner University.

At the last convention a resolution had been passed favoring the organization of districts wherever deemed practicable. Within the past year four districts were formed; in the northeast, southeast, south central and southwest portions of the state. But it was generally conceded that results had been far from satisfactory, for when demands were made upon the brethren for both district and state missionary work, "they will, as a rule, give to neither.....".

The failure of crops over a large portion of the state demanded unusual sacrifices and seriously hindered the work. Pastors of churches in the western counties were compelled to leave their churches. These pastors were urged "if the brethren remain, the pastor should remain also, sharing their privation and living as they live, until the dawning of brighter days, and the brethren should see to it that their preacher lives as well as themselves."

A tornado practically wiped out the town of Bradshaw and along with it the house of worship built at a great sacrifice together with the homes of the brethren. All went down in the common ruin. But many generously contributed and extended helping hands and there was hope that this should be continued until the ruined house of worship was replaced by a new structure.

The founders of Christian University were desirous of establishing academies to serve as "feeders" for the University, so an academy was started at Bennett, a village of a few hundred inhabitants located eighteen miles southwest of Lincoln. It began in the fall of 1890 with four teachers and four students. However, it grew and by the end of the first year 26 were enrolled. (History of Cotner University by Moomaw) This school made substantial progress until the fifth year, when because of stringent financial circumstances, the Nebraska Christian Educational Board was forced to withdraw its support. The sixth, and last year was begun, but after ten weeks, the history of Bennett Academy came to an end. The existence of the Academy was brief, but the character of the work done was creditable.

During this year R. C. Barrow was seriously ill for the greater part of the time. He was able to attend the convention, but the work suffered from his absence. Brother Barrow passed to his reward in Nov. 1890.

147 registered for the convention and Prof. J. A. Beattie of Cotner University was elected president. For ten years J. Z. Briscoe had "stood at the head of the missionary board."

No programs or convention reports were found of the 24th convention in 1891, but from minutes of the state board of Sept. 8, 1891 it would appear that the convention was held at Fairfield, for "it was taken by consent that Bro. Oliver should be permitted to go ahead and publish the minutes of the Fairfield State Meeting." Thus it seems clear that Fairfield was the convention city.

As these were still depression years, the all important question of that year with which the state board had to wrestle, was "how the necessary expenses of the board for the carrying on the state work should be met in the future." The following proposal was made: that each disciple throughout the state be apportioned as follows; a sum equal to 25¢ for each member of the church living south of a line passing north of and near to Lincoln and east of a line running north and south as far westward as Belvidere and Hebron in Thayer County. All north and west of said lines, 15¢ each."

These minutes also refer to a report of the Future Work committee "that the 1891 convention contemplated the employment of a good evangelist to hold some good meetings in a few of the most favorable localities. . . ." It was suggested that 100 good men could be procured who would be responsible for the pay for such an evangelist providing the meetings were not self-supporting.

For 1892 we must depend upon a few short minutes of the state board for information. At the March 7, 1892 meeting the committee reported that the "Church at Fairbury invites the next state meeting" but goes on to say that "no action had as yet been taken on the program."

The May 2, 1892 state board meeting minutes state "Judge Scofield of Illinois had been selected for a couple of addresses" presumably at the Fairbury convention.

The minutes also record that "Brother Hedges was already at work at Hastings on the syndicate plan; that a Tabernacle had been built for the meeting there, but that a smallpox outbreak had somewhat darkened the prospect for a good meeting."

The 26th convention was held at Omaha, August 1893. The convention minutes carry reports of the Nebraska Sunday School Association, the Ministerial Association, the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, and the Christian Woman's Board of Missions. This was according to the expressed wish of an earlier convention, whether in 1892 or earlier could not be determined. The above named organizations held their annual gatherings at the same place and during the same week. The Christian Woman's Board of Missions' report had been a part of the convention since their organization in 1884; the Sunday School had also been the concern of the churches since their beginning; the ministers had been having meetings since 1880, but when the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor first began, we could not learn. The report in the 1893 booklet indicates they had been functioning for some time, for the superintendent reports that "the work under his charge showed a healthy and increased growth of the societies throughout the state."

We also find in the reports of the Resolutions Committee throughout the years, recommendations concerning the liquor traffic and the "entire abolition of the saloon. . . . . .to rid our state of the drink curse."

Three points of the seven stressed by the President, J. A. Beattie were:

1. The condition of the state and county as indicated by the political excitement and the change of the administration.
2. The effort which has been made to carry forward the work in the face of debt, political excitement, financial depression and other hindrances.
3. The obligations we are under because of the success of our institution of learning."

According to the report of the Corresponding Secretary, A. W. Henry, the apportionment plan had not been adopted by all the churches in the state. In fact out of the 166 churches, only 52 had responded. But he took comfort in the fact that Illinois with her 70,000 disciples had but 46 churches contributing to the state work. A few churches had overpaid their quota. He felt that which had hindered the work very materially was the division of the collections between the state and district. "The amount received from the churches is $669.61 which would have been under the old management $1339.23. One-half of this amount has been in circulation, while the other half is in the district treasuries. Added to this is the fact that we are strictly in the crash and in place of our having $2000, which is now due the society, much of it is locked up in the banks."

The four districts reported to have been formed in 1890, have now been increased to ten. The 1893 Year Book lists the counties which comprise each district. The Future Work committee suggested "that meetings be held in each district separate from the district convention for special and fraternal purposes."

Fairfield College made their 4th annual report with the past year having "been one fraught with much to encourage the workers. The attendance was up to the usual standard and the work done satisfactory."

Cotner University reported increased enrollment but was having financial difficulties with an indebtedness of over $38,000. It had been decided by the board to sell farms they owned to pay off this indebtedness.

The depression years were really making it difficult for the various institutions to carry on.

From the CHRISTIAN NEWS, a weekly paper of the Churches of Christ in Nebraska under date of September 6, 1894 (Vol. 1 No. XXX) we learn that this 27th convention was held in the "spacious University Chapel" (of Cotner University) in August. However, the paper designates it as the 26th Annual Convention. One hundred twenty two delegates including Life Directors and Life members were in attendance.

Secretary A. W. Henry reported that $1400.00 was raised and expended during the year; the amount of the debt of the Society had been quite materially reduced and the pledges now due and unpaid exceeded the debt. Five church buildings had cleared their debts and 2200 (which seems phenomenal) additions to 94 churches, no reports having been received from the other 79 in the state.

The Constitution was changed so that hereafter the Corresponding Secretary was no longer a member of the Board. Cotner University and Fairfield College were both commended for "their efficient services rendered." F. M. Rains, secretary of the Foreign Society, J. H. Harlin, secretary of the Home Society and G. W. Muckley, secretary of Church Extension appeared on the program. J. A. Beattie was re-elected president.

A financial panic was sweeping the entire country, and the colleges were finding themselves in real difficulty as land values decreased. Collections were very difficult, sales were impossible and yet obligations must be met.

The 28th convention met in Central Christian Church, Lincoln, in August 1895. Reports had been received from only 56 of the 186 churches in the state, and "estimating those not reporting by those received, there are about 19,300 members of the church in Nebraska; 12,780 children in our Sunday Schools; 7,970 YPSCE members. The CWBM reports "1895 was a very trying year. Eight societies disbanded and instead of a gain there was a net loss of 160 members, and $141.22 in offerings." C. M. McCurdy, corresponding secretary, however, in his report states: "The Master's cause has moved grandly on, and we mark, at this 28th year of our organized history, an era of advancement in material and spiritual prosperity, regardless of financial depression, crop failure and other hindering environments."

There was considerable discussion in the convention as to whether or not older people should become members of the YPSCE. It seems not to have been settled!

G. W. Muckley of Church Extension reported 20 loans had been made in Nebraska, and in the past year only 14 churches had made an offering for Church Extension. 31 churches in all have repaid loans with interest, which had gone out again, making a "perpetual motion of money. If we could keep step together we could shake the earth."

A uniform constitution was suggested for the districts, and the constitution presented the year before for the state, was unanimously adopted. It set the time for future meetings of the convention "to be held annually, beginning the last Tuesday of the last full week in June."

J. A. Beattie had served five years as president and was given a rising vote of thanks.

Crop failures and general hard times were still the great problems at the time of the 29th convention held at the Central Christian Church in Lincoln, June 1896. The reports for this convention covered a 10 month period owing to change of date in holding the annual meeting. There were 214 congregations in the state and 24,000 members. The evangelists T. L. Read, A. D. Finch, R. V. Leeson, A. B. McFarlane and H. E. Wilhite reported holding 124 meetings with 2400 additions. It was estimated that 500 had been added through regular work, thus making 2900 additions for the ten months. The above named evangelists "had done the field service at a great personal sacrifice, collecting their salaries in pledges, which as yet remain unpaid."

The Beatrice Church tendered an invitation for the 1897 convention guaranteeing the Chautauqua grounds would be furnished free of cost, including all tents required. They also agreed to furnish necessary water and lights, to provide suitable patrol of the grounds, and to operate a dining hall, guaranteeing that good meals would be furnished at a cost not to exceed 25 cents each.

There were many indications during the last month of the school year ending in June 1896, that this was the last year for Cotner University. To close the school meant a "hard blow" to the Christian Churches of the state.

At the July 21, 1896 state board meeting W. A. Baldwin was secured as corresponding secretary at a salary of $800.00 and traveling expenses.

Cotner University did open in spite of the desperate financial situation in the autumn of 1896, and it proved to be a successful school year. W. P. Aylsworth had been called to fill this position of chancellor, and cheerfully assumed this responsibility, a task which no one would seek and which few would have accepted.

In February 1897, the new corresponding secretary reported having sent out a circular letter about their church apportionment to nearly 200 churches, but that their responses had not been at all encouraging. Also it was reported at this board meeting, that there had been an investigation and examination of records as to the Incorporation of the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society and that no such papers or records could be found.

At the same meeting, the following motion was adopted: "That B. A. Givens be appointed as a missionary evangelist for the Christian Churches of Nebraska" in recognition of his four years work in Nebraska and other states as singing evangelist.

At the convention, the 30th, held on the Beatrice Chautauqua Grounds, June 29 to July 4, 1897, reports indicated there were 214 churches, 12 new churches, and 35 dead; 191 now alive with a membership of 12,027 and the other 29 as having a membership of 1000. 50 preachers in the state were giving their whole time to preaching.

The enrollment committee reported a total of 175, and 118 churches represented. The C. E. reported an estimated membership as a total of 5126, but the "Superintendent does not consider this method of estimating or approximating as reliable, however, and would urge its discontinuance in every line of statistics."

The pledges, reported the previous year at $1000.00 were for the most part still unpaid. Judging from the amount collected from them during the year, they were counted to have little value.

Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Drummond, both of whom were educated at Cotner University, went to India as missionaries during the year 1897, first at Harda and later at Mahoba.

The corresponding secretary's report gives some insight on the difficulties the workers were encountering: "The first three of these eleven months were months of political intoxication, involving both men and women, in and out of the church, in such a mad wrangle as to preclude any reasonable probability of advancing such an ordinary matter as state missions. Many churches were preacherless, and desired to remain so; preachers were churchless and while surfeited with 'gold' or 'silver' were yet anxious to be at work for the Lord. The end of every stable and good thing was to come "after election" in any event, and all the (Christian) world waited, while the arch enemy of souls was never more active. The "end" came and the succeeding two months were given to slow recovery from the stupefaction of success for some, of defeat for others. The awakening was slow, since the exhaustion was deep."

H. A. Lemon had served as president the past year. W. A. Baldwin was elected the new president.

In June, 1898 the 31st convention camped again on the Blue River, which flowed through the Chautauqua Park near Beatrice. The program booklet of the convention has disappeared so we must depend on the eight board meetings held during the year for information. They do give quite a clear picture of the work in Nebraska for that period.

At the last meeting of the board held during the June convention the following motion carried: "that all old notes and pledges due the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society were ordered to be publicly burned at this convention."

F. A. Bright had been elected corresponding secretary at the first state board meeting. W. A. Baldwin served as president. The statement "A general discussion

of financial problems and the best way to meet them," or words of similar meaning, occurs in the records of the board meetings again and again during that year.

The Christian Woman's Board of Missions reported 15 new auxiliaries, bringing the total to 64. Eight of the ten district managers were represented in a panel on the program. This was the 15th annual session of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions and Mrs. Alice Hemry, who had served as president for eight years, "laid down the work and Mrs. Himes was elected to that position." Mrs. Aylsworth was elected secretary; and Miss Olive Griffith, state organizer, in which position she served 'til 1902. She went to India as a missionary in 1905 and served until 1926.

This 32nd convention was held at Hastings and once again an August date is given, August 22-27, 1899. The president, F. A. Bright, because of a railroad accident, did not reach the convention for the opening session.

Several interesting items are noted in the Resolutions passed by this convention:

1. That we recognize the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church.....and therefore ask the congregations of Nebraska to give it their support.
2. Hail with profound satisfaction the increased interest shown in the movement to bring about a better observance of the Lord's Day.
3. The convention placed itself on record as utterly and forever opposed to the drink traffic.
4. Ask the House of Representatives to expel from its membership a polygamist."

203 registered at the convention. "Churches actually alive is 185. There are a number of places where we have brethren, but no organization and no meetings. Several churches reported last year were afterward found to be dead or died during the year."

An advertisement of Cotner University in the back of the program booklet gives the information: "Since last year the way has been opened to success in reclaiming our beautiful property. The bank claims have been entirely raised and now when we have raised enough to cover some claims that we hoped to settle otherwise, this arduous work will be accomplished, and the school will start upon its struggle for endowment. W. P. Aylsworth, president."

The picture of Fairfield college is not so good. The receipts had dropped and while the college still owned 200 town lots and 88 one-acre tracts, there was no sale for them, as the great land "boom" was over.

Cotner University was beginning to overshadow Fairfield College. The enrollment at Fairfield College had greatly declined and conditions had grown gradually worse until 1899 when it ceased to exist.

The 33rd state convention was held at the Bethany Assembly grounds, August 28 to Sept. 2, 1900 and continued to be held here until the close of the convention in 1912. E. Von Forrell was president. After serving as president one year, W. A. Baldwin was again the corresponding secretary. He reported, "that we are still in good financial condition, is ground for consistent rejoicing. No burdens of debt encumber us. Conventions have been held in all districts save numbers nine and three..... A re-arrangement of districts seems advisable in some instances." The corresponding secretary had attended the general convention in Cincinnati and after personal conversations and conferences with other state secretaries, expressed himself as feeling "that we of the great west, comparatively weak and small, are solving our problems as rapidly and as effectively as the strong and great; that we can justly pride ourselves in being abreast of the best in point of methods, fervor, liberality and results."

In the Obituary report appears the name of Bro. Alvin Saunders, territorial governor when Nebraska became a state, identified with the Christian Church of Omaha, and commended for his devotion to the principles and practice of primitive Christianity.

J. W. Hilton, recording secretary, ended the minutes on the following note of joy: "This convention was by far the greatest ever held in the history of the state work. The enrollment amounted to 408. Hundreds attended who did not enroll and it was estimated that 3500 could have attended if transportation had been more convenient. The Missouri Pacific trains stopped daily at the grounds. The grounds are most beautiful and by next year will present even a much more attractive appearance. Good water, good dining hall, and plenty of good shade with good program made it a most pleasant and instructive meeting. Let us prepare to be present next year in still greater numbers."

In 1901 the 34th annual meeting was held in August, E. VonForrell president. The corresponding secretary, W. A. Baldwin, who began his term of service in 1899 and served until 1912, reported for the year 1901 as follows: 145 preachers in the state; an appropriation of $200 had been made by the National Christian Women's Board of Missions; the American Christian Missionary society had appropriated $300, and had also given First Church at Lincoln an appropriation of $100, thus "the American Christian Missionary Society appears as a benefactor in our work again this year."

A recommendation for the organization and incorporation, according to law, of a publishing company to publish a state paper was brought to the convention. This becomes a subject for consideration in several succeeding conventions.

O. J. Grainger, who had received his college work at Cotner University served as missionary to India from 1901 to 1927. Mrs. McCleery was president of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions, having been elected in 1900.

359 registered at this convention and among speakers were Mrs. Calla Scott Willard, and W.E.M. Hackleman was chorus and song leader and soloist.

President Z. O. Doward, of Grand Island, presided over the 35th convention held in August, 1902. An excerpt from the president's address reads as follows; "The wide awake members of the Governing Board were early on the grounds - the delightful Bethany Camp Grounds - where the hosts of the church militant soon filled the "white city" and amid the luxuries of nature's own furnishings the society convened to attend to the "King's Business." But the record goes on to say that the next morning "was rather gloomy on account of recent rains."

The Corresponding Secretary reported, "of one thing your board is justly proud; we have been able during the whole of the year to meet promptly all bills against the Society, and find ourselves at the close of the year with money in the treasury and all accounts paid." But there was "one fly in the ointment" - the apportionments had not been as fully paid as before.

He was hopeful that the national convention to be held in Omaha later in that year would "start a wave of enthusiasm throughout the state, that will, if taken at flood tide, lead the way for a large increase in membership and spiritual influence of the churches in the state."

Three regular evangelists had been employed during the year and received words of commendation for their work. 164 churches had been asked for an offering in the form of apportionments. Of these 87 responded in some form to the work. Membership was reported to be over 15,000.

It was felt that the opportunity in the city of Omaha for a city missionary called for some effort to meet the crying needs in that busy and "wicked" city.

The Christian Woman's Board of Missions reported a loss of 15 societies. Since 5 new ones had been organized, it was felt that the picture was not wholly discouraging.

No records of any kind were located for the period between the 1902 and 1903 conventions, but the 36th convention was held. The National Convention, having been held in Omaha during October 1902, was considered helpful to all the work in the state.

Shortly after the National Convention, Mrs. Willard for the Christian Woman's Board of Missions published the first number of the Nebraska CWBM MESSENGER, as the secretary's method of communication with the societies; but its continuance did not seem warranted, so was soon dropped. The Wilkinson family had gone to Porto Rico as missionaries during the year.

1903-1912

The 37th convention was held August, 1904, and as for some years, at the Bethany Assembly grounds, though now it was the property of the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society, having been purchased by them during the past year. Many improvements had been made in the grounds. The tent in the center for meetings, with "white tents" nestling among the trees indicating the homes of campers, were all pleasing and much appreciated by the convention attendants.

Z. O. Doward was president. The corresponding secretary noted that 19 churches that gave last year, gave nothing this year, and these were churches in part that had been fairly liberal givers. He remarked: "In the blank places found there in may be read much of the tragedy of missions." A colored church in Lincoln, W. H. Vanderzee, minister, had received support for one quarter during the year.

Because of unhappy experiences with "apostate" preachers, this convention (as in some previous and also succeeding conventions) passed the resolution that in all cases where appropriations were made by the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society for the support of pastor or evangelist, the congregation so aided be requested to employ such men as shall meet the approval of the Board.

1214 were registered, a gain over last year of nearly 200. Quoting from the corresponding secretary gives a fair resume of the work: "The work has been of unusually diverse types. As a grievance committee he has visited nearly every part of this great domain. He has given counsel, preached, raised money, encouraged, discouraged, wept and prayed besides hundreds of things 'too numerous to mention' and many that cannot be mentioned." Yet all in all there was some advancement and progress made.

A permanent tabernacle had been constructed on the Bethany Assembly grounds for the 38th convention held in August 1905, besides other improvements on the grounds. There were 2077 registrations.

One new organization is credited to the work this year: Havelock, in cooperation with the Lincoln and Bethany and other churches of District 2. B. F. Whiston was serving as state evangelist, who for the most part worked in places where the church was languishing if not totally abandoned.

Dr. Drummond, Missionary to India, and H. G. Wilkinson, missionary to Porto Rico, both from Nebraska appeared on the convention program.

The 1906 (39th) convention was designated as the "Rainy Convention," but there was an air of hope and joy over the past year's successes. The Corresponding Secretary in his report, said: "Many of us can recall the days of distress and weakness in our work, and will now be filled with gladness and hope because the better days are upon us." A substantial gain in receipts was shown, the finances being wholly solvent, save a small deficit in the CHRISTIAN NEWS fund. The secretary had visited churches in the extreme north and northwest, listing Gering Mitchell, Scottsbluff, Chadron, Gross, Spencer, Pleasantview, Norfolk and Pender.

New organizations had been established at Vesta, Litchfield, Mitchell, Alliance and Norfolk. Florence had been reorganized as a mission point under the leadership of the Northside Church, Omaha.

At this convention a statement tells of the suspension of publication of THE CHRISTIAN NEWS. A monthly eight page paper known as THE NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN NEWS was being published jointly by the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society and the Christian Woman's Board of Missions, subscription price 25¢ annually.

A dining hall had been built and partially equipped on the assmebly grounds at a total cost of $493.30. W. P. Aylsworth announced that Abraham Teachout of Cleveland, Ohio, had given an endowment of $20,000 to Cotner University.

During the past year Olive Griffith went to India as missionary. She had served as state organizer and secretary of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions for the years 1898 to 1902.

H. J. Kirschstein, of Omaha, was president of the 40th convention, in 1907. Three regular evangelists had been employed during the past year; receipts from all sources materially increased, and the number of contributing churches rose to above 100. Still there was a net deficit, "a source of regret to the board." W. A. Baldwin, Corresponding Secretary, remarked that "a casual glance at the foregoing tables (statistical tables on giving) will show how easily a few well-to-do churches could have pushed the apportionments about $2000.00 this year."

The THE NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN NEWS had continued until February, making a year of its history, but a deficit of $143.31 was piled up during that year. At this convention, DeForest Austin, owner and editor of THE CHRISTIAN REPORTER, published weekly at Bethany, proposed to fill out the unexpired subscriptions, and his proposal was accepted. The paper was a private venture, and entailed no responsibility on the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society financially.

The evangelists reported total additions as 413 and pastors 550.

Cotner University reported the endowment fund had reached a total of $40,000.00, but was begging for more students.

A motion carried to have no Obituary committee at the next convention, and this report disappeared from the booklets.

At this convention, the 41st in 1908, the Corresponding Secretary began his report with the words: "it should be remembered that the panic struck the state the first of November (1907) just as the offerings (for the state work) were to be taken." However, the receipts did pass the $2,000.00 mark in apportionment receipts and he urged that the Centennial aim be set at $3000.00.

State evangelists had been kept in the field, some as Living Links in state missions. First Church Omaha took as a special field of labor the area of Omaha, making an appropriation of $200.00 during the year.

To the sorrow of the Corresponding Secretary, much of his time had to be devoted to "encouraging the membership," securing ministers for preacherless churches, and settling disputes among the membership.

A copy of the Constitution of the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society adopted in 1903, printed in the program booklet, stated that the governing board of the society should include, besides the duly elected officers of the convention, the president of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions, the president of the Ministerial Association, the president of the Educational Institution at Bethany, Nebr., the superintendent of the Junior Christian Endeavor and the corresponding secretaries of the various missionary districts of the state, who are ex-officio members of the Board."

The notes of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions indicate the faithful attendance of its president at the meetings.

Cotner's Centennial watchword was $100,000 for endowment and 500 students by 1909. Cotner students were depended on to fill pulpits across the state, and were commended "for the character and ability of the major part of the ministerial students in Cotner University."

Copy of the Proceedings book indicates there were eleven districts in the state at this time.

On the program appeared such personalities as W.E.M. Hackleman, Marion Stevenson, F. M. Rains, H. H. Harmon, and Bert Wilson, with J. E. Davis, of Beatrice, serving as president.

The 42nd Convention of the NCMS was held on the Assembly Grounds at Bethany, Nebraska, August 22-29, 1909, with R. A. Schell, of Hastings, president. It was observed as the Centennial year and the CWBM reported an especially prosperous year.

The out-of-state personalities on the convention program were: Oliver W. Stewart, Chicago; L. B. Cox, Indianapolis; J. H. Mohorter, NBA; E. W. Allen, Wichita, Kansas; A. L. Orcutt, Board of Ministerial Relief, Indianpolis; I. J. Spencer, Lexington, Kentucky.

Records show 96 churches reporting with 1393 additions. During that year two great meetings were held in the state by Charles Reign Scoville at Lincoln and Beatrice.

At the 43rd Convention, July 25-31, 1910, at Bethany, J. W. Hilton was president.

A report states that there were 164 churches; that of these 112 gave $2117.65 to state missions; 83 Sunday Schools gave $374.79; and 57 Christian Endeavor Societies gave $362.27; to make a total of $2854.71.

Dr. Pickett, medical missionary in the Philippines, was on the convention program; also W. F. Richardson, Kansas City; E. E. Elliott, representing the Brotherhood of Disciples of Christ, giving an illustrated talk on "The Men's Movement."

The 44th Convention was held at Bethany on August 14-20, 1911, with J. M. Kersey, of Omaha, president.

Some of the personalities on the convention program were: Miss Olive Griffith, missionary in India; Dr. A. L. Shelton, missionary in Tibet; R. P. Shepherd, of St. Louis; Dr. Fred Kline, of Illinois, NBA representative; and Albert Schwartz, Clinton, Illinois.

The year 1911 was observed as the "Silver Anniversary" of the Nebraska Christian Woman's Board of Missions.

History of Cotner University (Leon A. Moomaw) lists among the graduates of the University during those years, some of whom became well known across Nebraska in later years: Charles E. Cobbey, who became president of Cotner University; John G. Alber, who served many years as state secretary of the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society; Ray Hunt, pastor of Lincoln First Christian Church; Leon A. Moomaw, writer of the History of Cotner University; Floyd Bash; Bert Wilson; Wenona Wilkinson, later a missionary to China. There are no doubt others that deserve mention, but space has put limits on the writer.

T. A. Maxwell of Fairbury, presided over the 45th convention in August 1912. The Corresponding Secretary, W. A. Baldwin, reported 870 additions from the ministry of our missionaries (state evangelists), noting that "this record has not been equaled in the period of the last sixteen years at least. Two new churches fully manned and one with a new house have been organized." The latter seems to have been at Anselmo. Again the general financial condition was mentioned in connection with falling receipts for the state work.

During the past year through joint efforts of Lincoln First, Lincoln Eastside, Lincoln Third, Bethany and Havelock churches, and the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society, a church was established in the southeast section of Lincoln. It was known as Tabernacle church until in 1962, its name was changed to Southview Christian Church, Lincoln. E. J. Sias was the first minister.

Both Cotner University and the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society had received generous gifts from R. A. Long, of Kansas City, to help carry on the Nebraska work - all unsolicited.

The pulpit supply committee reported a "general shortage of acceptable men (preachers) and never having enough to supply the need;" and asked for hearty support for our own colleges, with young people and with finances.

The evangelists again and again speak of the "extreme difficulty in keeping the work moving" in the smaller churches scattered over Nebraska.

The Recording Secretary, E. M. Johnson, closes the report as follows: "The convention was great in the strength of the program, the good fellowship of the brethren, the large attendance and the larger vision for Christian service each one obtained."

William Oeschger, who began his work as Chancellor of Cotner University in September 1910, reported that "the year had been crowned with success." 317 young men and women were enrolled, and counting those enrolled in summer school brought the total to 381.

Dr. and Mrs. Royal J. Dye both appeared on the convention program, as did A. McLean, and I. N. McCash.

The Men's Brotherhood met for a banquet and election of officers. Whether this was the first meeting of this kind, was not clear from the minutes and records.

H. H. Harmon was elected president, E. M. Johnson was to be the new Field Secretary, and W. A. Baldwin to continue as corresponding secretary.

In 1913 the 46th convention moved to Prospect Park at Hastings in a typical Nebraska hot, dry time. The proceedings of the convention state: "The heat of these days has been extreme, running above one hundred degrees, practically all the day. At night there has been some relief, especially from the blistering winds, which are cooler after sundown." But following communion service on Sunday the last day of the convention, we note the recording secretary has this comment: "After the benediction the Hastings band presented a well prepared musical program and Nature, so long inhospitable, deluged the earth with a refreshing shower."

An office for the work of the society, hitherto furnished by the corresponding secretary, had been opened in the Bankers Life Building, Lincoln at 14th and N Sts. Rental was $14.50 per month plus electric lights. The CWBM and Cotner University joined in the support of the office. The former contributed $176.00 and the latter $75.00 to this support. Needed furniture had been purchased and the office opened about the middle of September, 1912.

In February THE CHRISTIAN REPORTER was left without a printer and the effort was about to be suspended. However, the management was taken over by the state board and the corresponding secretary W. A. Baldwin took up the work of editing and issuing the paper at half its former size.

District conventions were held in each of the eleven districts but "the eleventh district has but a handful of churches and they seem so far away from the center of our activities that we felt ourselves to be far out on the frontier when we were in that part of the state." The 11th district was comprised of the extreme northwest counties of Nebraska.

Wednesday of the convention was designated "Conservation Day." All addresses were designed to stress the need of the conservation of work among the children particularly. J. H. Mohortor of St. Louis pressed the need of the National Benevolent Association. The Child Saving Institute of Omaha comes into the picture in 1913.

Another interesting note: "At 6:00 P.M. a banquet was spread in the dining tent, President Wilson, Toastmaster, to which the women were also invited as guests." Were women at this time considered as "Guests" only at the convention?

Back at Bethany Assembly grounds, for the 47th convention in the summer of 1914, C. F. Stevens, Beatrice, president.

During the year E. M. Johnson, field secretary, closed his work the middle of February; the secretary's salary was reduced one-third; the service of an evangelist was dispensed with; the Bible School superintendent's salary was reduced two-thirds; appropriations to mission points were not increased; the office help was cut in half. The cause? Short crops and financial unrest cut offerings from the churches. All this "chilled the hearts of your board."

The Men and Millions movement had been launched and the corresponding secretary was assisting as possible.

The CWBM minutes give the following information: "The farewell service including the ordaining of our seven out-going missionaries, was a fitting climax to the afternoon session. Mr. and Mrs. G. J. P. Barger, in appointment to Africa; Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Child, appointees to South America; Mr. and Mrs. Ray Rice to India; and Miss Wenona Wilkinson to China. Each was presented with a silk American Flag to take with them to their new homes on the mission field."

H. O. Pritchard, president of Eureka College, gave a series of Bible Readings on the Teachings of Jesus. Bert Wilson, now field secretary for the Foreign Christian Missionary Society, and Grant K. Lewis, of the American Christian Missionary Society, were on the convention program.

Four conferences were held each morning (a new departure) on a. General efficiency; b. CWBM; c. Bible School; and d. YPSCE.

In spite of the cut-backs made necessary during the year, the corresponding secretary closes his report with the words, "Taken as a whole the year's work has been fairly representative of our growing interests and increasing problems in the state."

The CWBM started the little paper THE NEBRASKA TIDINGS edited by Mrs. Willard. This little paper continued until June, 1936.

The 1915 (48th) convention was held Nov. 1-5, in the Bethany Church. Only re- records available was an abbreviated financial report and the list of ministers in the state. There was a debt of over $4000.00.

In the History of Women's Missionary Work of the Nebraska Christian Churches (Hemry - Marvel) page 11, Mrs. Hemry states Year Books were not printed in 1915 and 1916, presumably in an effort to save money.

The financial report is signed by "Charles E. Cobbey, president and secretary." L. W. Myers was state evangelist.

Mrs. Willard had resigned because of ill health having completed twelve years as secretary and organizer of the Nebraska CWBM and Miss Cora Hemry had been chosen to fill the vacancy.

Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Thompson went to India in 1915, and worked there until the untimely death of Mr. Thompson on the day before Christmas 1927. Mrs. Thompson served as a woman doctor in a needy field, receiving her M.D. in 1913.

As financially conditions in the state had not changed much since the 1915 convention, it is likely that the state of affairs concerning the state work had not changed much either. These were the World War I years, and agencies such as the Red Cross, Y.M.C.A. Salvation Army, Knights of Columbus and Jewish War Relief, were used as excuses to cut down on giving to churches or engage in its regular activities.

From the 1917 convention notes, we learn that there was an unpaid bill of $304.40 for 1916 convention expense.

During the year 1916-1917 to the time of the 50th convention Wm. Oeschger, as corresponding secretary, having been chosen by the board at the Sept. 5, 1916 meeting, gave much of his time in a financial campaign to get the NCMS out of debt. This stood at $1538.50 at the beginning of the year. He was successful in doing this, and at the convention reported the debt cleared and a cash balance of $1459.39. Wm. Oeschger had served as Chancellor of Cotner from September 1910 to March 1916. He was the last Chancellor. Hereafter the title "president" is used.

Evangelistic work had been carried on by L. W. Myers, Alden Lee Hill, Stephen J. Epler and others. Dan Troxel was state Bible School superintendent, Miss Cora Hemry, state secretary of the C.W.B.M. THE CHRISTIAN REPORTER was continuing with Mrs. E. M. Hageman as managing editor and Mr. E. M. Hageman as advertising manager. Conventions had been held in each district, and it was felt that there was an efficient organization in each one.

The statistical table lists 180 churches, but the report also names some half dozen churches where the state had secured the legal title and sold the properties because there were no congregations left.

Harry Hill had faithfully served as state recording secretary for three years, and as he was about to leave the state, the resolutions committee extended the thanks of the convention. Mention is also made at various places of the "past fifty years" and the "entering upon the next half of the century of our work in Nebraska."

The resolutions committee gave forth this expression: "That we especially thank Him, the Heavenly Father, for the heroic labors of the pioneers of our work. That we are grateful to our beloved brother D. R. Dungan, for his coming to this convention and the splendid messages he brings us from day to day."

The NCMS inaugurated a Five Year Program at the August 1917 convention as follows: "1. That we raise $5000.00 a year for five years for evangelism. 2. That we have $25,000 in our Trust Fund at the end of the five years. 3. That twenty-five new churches be added to our number in five years." Nebraska Missions Day was set for November 4.

Sept. 16-20, 1918, Omaha was the scene of the 51st convention, the convention opening with a "good social time with a wheatless, meatless and eatless banquet" as these were the rationing years.

For the church, the World War I greatly altered the conditions under which the work could be carried forward. Many able ministers left their pulpits to do war work. The rising costs made it difficult for ministers to live on the salaries they had been receiving and some left the ministry to enter secular callings. The tendency to make the work of the church secondary to war work was intensified over the year 1916. Flu was raging across the land.

Yet the corresponding secretary, Wm. Oeschger, reported to this convention that additions to the churches had been almost normal; the pulpits had been well supplied; $131,000 had been pledged to the Men and Millions Movement; $50,000 to the special Cotner Drive; and $70,000 to the Emergency Drive in March.

J. S. Beem, Frank A. Woten, S. J. Epler and R. C. Harding in addition to the corresponding secretary had carried on the evangelistic work. Mr. Harding also served as president the past year and of this convention.

The CWBM, under the guidance of Cora E. Hemry as secretary, and Mrs. Hemry Fishbach president, reported advances. Miss Minta Thorp of Bethany had spent the past year at the College of Missions and sailed for India late in the fall.

The 52nd convention was held at Kearney, Sept. 15-19, 1919, L. C. Oberlies president, and Wm. Oeschger corresponding secretary. Changes in the Constitution were again one of the business items to be considered in the convention. The district plan was changed, creating five districts instead of eleven in existence before. The convention expressed itself as in favor of the unification of our missionary societies nationally.

The Nebraska Christian Foundation was authorized but it was 1921 before a student pastor was secured, at which time J. W. Hilton was called in January, 1921 to take the task.

The history of the past year was almost a repetition of the year before, the following being taken from the report of the corresponding secretary: "The past year the church labored under great difficulties; the war was still raging; the direful conditions that the influenza epidemic created closed churches from four to twelve weeks all over the state; revival services were curtailed; and the reaction that set in after the armistice in November produced great indifference toward the public services of the church.....churches have had great financial drives.....but raising large sums of money and losing in membership is not making real progress."

Missionary guests were Dr. Macklin of China, Myrtle Furman and Mrs. Drummond of India.

Again the brethren gathered at Bethany Sept. 1920 for the 53rd convention, but we note in the directory that now there had been elected a president of the convention, E. L. Rouse, and a chairman of the Board, C. C. Dobbs. O. L. Smith had taken over the work of corresponding secretary on January 12, 1920, though his report covered the period from Sept. 1, 1919 to Sept. 15, 1920. He also assumed editorship of THE CHRISTIAN REPORTER early in February 1920. The state having been reorganized into five districts, the plan was to employ a pastor-evangelist in each district, to be under the supervision of the state board. 4th district had begun work, calling Dan G. Dungan who had established a home in Hastings. The 3rd district began with W. C. Lessley of Broken Bow. The brotherhood had 22,528 members in the

state, being strong in the southeast and south and north-central parts of the state; but weak in the northeast, the northern and the western part of the state.

The State University with an enrollment of 9000, including hundreds of our own young people, presented a real challenge. The outstanding material achievement of Cotner University for the past year was the realization of the Woman's Building, which was already occupied but would not be completed till in October. The president, A. D. Harmon, seemed to feel "the college has recovered from the nervous and unsettled psychic conditions induced by the war period." It is first in the 1920 Year Book, that the name Cotner College is used instead of Cotner University in the report by its president.

The need of a state office was keenly felt as the furniture was stored in sheds or was encroaching on the corresponding secretary's home.

Hastings was host to the 54th convention which met Oct. 3-7, 1921. Five new congregations were reported as follows; Bayard, Morrill Co.; Chappell, Deuel Co.; Messersmith School House and Nunda School House in Loup Co.; and Hamlet, Hayes Co. Outstanding work was reported at Kenesaw, Geneva, Sutherland, Sargent and Lexington.

While the offerings were to be on the basis of "All funds to go to the whole task" Nebraska churches had not lived up to that ideal, and the state work found itself hard pressed for funds.

From the annual report of Cotner College, comes the statement: "It is the judgment of the college management that there is no school in the west doing a higher grade of class room work." A new heating system had been installed and the "Honor Point system" adopted for graduation. But, the college was not very hopeful concerning the financial side, and pleaded with the constitutency to take Education along with State Missions and the United Society into its conscience.

From now on for a number of years the CWBM was to be known as the Nebraska Christian Woman's Missionary Society.

H. E. Sackett of Beatrice served as president the past year and C. I. Van Petten, chairman of the board, the latter from Lincoln. Miss Mayble Epp served as office secretary while attending Cotner. O. L. Smith continued as corresponding secretary.

Mrs. J. C. Wilson, Exeter was elected president of the Women's Missionary Society. Missionaries on the convention program were Dr. C. C. Drummond of India and Wenona Wilkinson of China.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Johnson were business manager and editor respectively of THE CHRISTIAN REPORTER.

The 55th annual convention met in June, 1922 at the Bethany Church and all reports cover a nine month period. The state work had been marked by one sad word - retrenchment. The four district men had been reduced to one. A church had been organized at Cambridge but many - too many others had fallen by the wayside. Three congregations were divided by internal troubles. But the real problems as sensed by the state workers was the lack of stewardship on the part of the members - in plain words, inadequate financial support!

From now on the corresponding secretary became the "state secretary" tho' the term is used interchangeably at times.

New missionaries going out were Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Kennedy, Ira Crewdson and Consuelo Perez-Guerra.

Mr. J. C. McLucas, Fairbury, was president of the convention, and C. S. Alvord, Lincoln, chairman of the board.

Nebraska membership summary showed 129 churches, reporting 20,245 members; 33 non-reporting churches, estimated membership 2,104; or a total of 22,349.

In spite of discouragements, the convention closed on a note of hope that out of a year of retrenchment there would come a renewal of consecration that would raise the missionary standards to a plane that would insure success.

Grand Island entertained the 56th convention in 1923. Missionary guests were Mr. C. H. and Dr. Bertha Thompson of India, Robert Lemmon of South America, Edith Eberle of the Phillipine Islands, and Jesse Bader told of the home mission work in Livingston, Tenn.

John G. Alber had assumed the work of state secretary and Mrs. E. M. Johnson became president of the Woman's Missionary Society, Miss Cora E. Hemry continuing as the secretary.

In 1924, the 57th convention was held at Aurora, in June.

Chas. E. Cobbey was president of Cotner College. The "Million Dollars for Endowment" campaign was launched. The president of Cotner in his report stated, "This will be the year in Cotner's history that will determine her future success, her future advancement or retardment. ..... Cotner is great in spirit and great in her faith, but if this greatness is to be saved and guaranteed we must lift her from her desperate financial struggles and put her upon a sounder financial foundation." The deficit for the year stood at $24,777.96.

The state secretary's report listed 164 churches, with receipts from the 100 churches reporting amounting to $8,538.08 - higher by almost three thousand dollars for the five previous years. But he also reports that in the last two decades twenty or thirty Christian churches had been sold in Nebraska.

1924 was observed as the "Golden Jubilee" year of the NCWMS. Miss Cora Hemry had resigned as general secretary and Mrs. E. M. Johnson was elected to that position. Mrs. E. G. Jones of Omaha was elected president.

H. H. Harmon was chairman of the convention.

Back to Bethany Park for the 58th convention in June 1925, L. A. Brumbaugh, chairman of the convention. Registrations numbered 614 from 73 churches, but the estimated attendance was 1500, only about one-third registering. John G. Alber was state secretary. There were 164 churches listed with a membership of 25,784 and contributions to the NCMS were $10,476.00 during the year.

Personalities on the program included Glenn McRae, regional representative of the Department of Religious Education of the UCMS; Barton Johnson, Lura Aspinwall, W. F. Rothenberger, Virgil Sly, Marion Stevenson, J. H. Tilsley, Harold Fey and Dr. Royal J. Dye.

Cotner College reported "that the year just completed has been one of a large degree of success and promise." Endowment assets were given at $211,194.55 (Chas. Cobbey, the president, died suddenly on Sept. 11, 1925).

The NCWMS concluded their "Golden Jubilee Year" listing 150 societies with 3,622 members, regular offerings $6,776.68, and that the Jubilee Fund from the state amounted to $18,610.87.

1926 - the 59th convention assembled at Bethany Park, June 15-20. But on one evening of the convention, it was so cold the convention went to the Bethany Church. 1475 attended from 138 places. G. A. Miller, President.

From the state secretary's report, we glean the following: "The combined number of days spent in the field by the workers amounted to 1707 days, representing nearly five years of field service during the 12 months. 184 baptisms in 'these difficult fields' and 126 otherwise, a total of 310 additions. A total of $13,208.17 was received from the churches by the NCMS - far in advance of anything previously known in Nebraska."

W. S. Lowe had begun his work as state evangelist during the past year.

J. B. Weldon, president of Cotner College, reported that the goal of a million dollars for endowment has almost been reached - "one of the most significant achievements in the history of the college." Extensive improvements had been made upon buildings and equipment.

The NCWMS adopted a program of advance designed to make that work more effective in the churches. $9,027 in offerings had been received during the year.

1927 - and the 60th convention was held at Bethany Park with 2318 in attendance. A new plan for creating eight districts in the state was adopted by this convention.

The first reference to Cotner summer youth conferences was made by the Committee on Resolutions and heartily endorsed by them. The first conference was held in 1923.

A grand total of $13,734.14 was received from the churches during the year, yet there was a deficit of $1500.00 at the close of the year. The following were serving as mission pastors and evangelists; Fay Stephenson, Burwell; Ray Libhart, Central City; Leonard Camp, McCook; Ben Bobbit, Peru; J. H. Bicknell, Sidney; E. M. Pardee, Table Rock; and the Andersons and W. S. Lowe were state evangelists.

NCWMS reported offerings of over $9000. Mrs. J. W. Lanning was elected president; Mary E. White, general secretary. Wenona Wilkinson told of her experiences about getting out of China through the war zone during the convention.

1928, and the 61st convention was held at Bethany Park, June 12-17, P. R. Stevens, president of the convention. A "Three Year Pentecostal" program was launched at this session by all the organizations.

The convention heartily endorsed the proposed Pension Fund plan recommended by the Columbus International Convention. The NCMS was still conducting the "Quiet Quest" campaign for permanent funds. Frederick W. Burnham, President of the Foriegn Christian Missionary Society was the convention speaker.

Nebraska was still considered a great mission field - one section of the state in the sand hills area a hundred miles square had but one church and that closed most of the time. One of our mission pastors went out a little farther to a town where there was no church of any kind. A lady said to him, "Sir, I have lived here for 34 years and you are the first minister that has ever been in our home." This seemed to be typical of the wide open spaces of western Nebraska.

THE NEBRASKA TIDINGS, the little WMS paper, was reduced in size, "a real loss to the women."

The statistical report of 1928 showed 30,000 members in 164 churches as compared to 6 churches and 300 members in 1863 when the first organization was formed at Rock Bluff.

Receipts passed all previous records, amounting to $15,527.26. This was a discrepancy of $30.00 between the secretary's books and this report due to a check on the Minatare bank refused because of bank failure; and the refunding of the same." "A little cloud as big as a man's hand appearing on the horizon, but perhaps a warning of things to come!"

The 62nd convention assembled at Bethany Park June, 1929. C. O. Stuckenbruck, president. R. H. Miller, Dale Ellis and Paul D. Kennedy appeared on the program.

Guy B. Dunning came from Crown Point, Indiana to re-establish churches at Clearwater, Orchard, Neligh, and other points in the Elkhorn Valley, being supported in great part by the state society.

W. S. Lowe and the Warren C. Andersons were serving as state evangelists, much of their work centering in Western Nebraska. They organized the church at Minatare, an entirely new organization.

Nebraska City Church had been terribly disrupted a few years before, when the retiring pastor led about 60 members to another place of meeting. It was helped by

the state society, had again come to self support, and built a beautiful modern $35,000 building. Two churches were sold.

Cotner College had launched the Rocky Mountain Summer school in early June at Sylvan Dale, Loveland, Colo. However, the financial situation had been difficult, and the college did not have resources adequate for its needs.

In June, 1930 the convention met at Bethany Park for the 63rd meeting, R. E. Deadman, president.

John G. Alber, state secretary, reported that the past year "had been a great year from the standpoint of opportunities for service, also great from the standpoint of accomplishment. . . . . Financially it has been a hard year for many churches and consequently the financial depression has reflected itself in the receipts of the state Society. But we close the year with all bills paid and a few hundred dollars in the treasury."

He was also enthusiastic about the work in the north part of the state being done by the Dunning family, and reported new churches at Oakdale and Clearwater. Practically all of these churches have since chosen to disassociate themselves from the cooperative work in the state, even though it was the state treasury that made their establishment possible.

A flying squadron accompanied by the Scoville Evangelistic team, went across Nebraska in cars, with an average attendance of 313, 133 churches represented in meetings held at 17 centers. It was estimated that 20% of the entire membership of our churches was reached in this Booster trip. Miss Ethel Johnson was secretary of the department of Religious Education, spending part time in Nebraska.

The Lowe evangelistic team had revived the work at Pleasant View church at Wilcox, refurbishing the building and getting pews and other furnishings from another church.

L. C. Anderson served as president of Cotner College for the years 1930 - 1931. H. C. Hobgood, missionary to the Belgian Congo, had been added to the faculty and a summer session was to be held in Colorado.

Mrs. L. W. Neumann served as president of the NCWMS from 1929 to 1932. During 1929 Marvin and Ruth Oberlies Shafer left for China; Harold and Goldie Fey went to the Philippines; Dale Ellis returned to the Philippines after a leave of five years; Agnes Fishbach left late in 1930 for Asuncion, Paraguay.

The convention took a stand for the enforcement of the 18th amendment for national prohibition, as conducive to the welfare of society.

The 64th convention was held in Bethany Park June 1931, F. K. Hargrove, president. Depression was hitting Nebraska - a little longer perhaps in reaching the state than those farther east, tho the "storm clouds had been gathering" for several years, really starting in the late twenties. Nationally the brotherhood set out to raise eight million dollars, and Nebraska churches and pastors were urged to enroll and support in raising our portion."

The first pastors convocation - a fellowship of pastors of various religious bodies was held in Lincoln in January.

In 1930, the NCWMS had published a booklet about missionaries from Nebraska, those native born, those who resided for sometime within her borders, and those who received their education in her institutions of learning. This was available for distribution at this convention.

The 65th convention, held in June, 1932, was again facing the falling off of receipts, and retrenchment all along the line. Farm produce was not bringing enough to deliver to the market. The whole area of rural Nebraska had come to a grinding, jolting crisis, because of the depression. But the secretary, in his 10th report stated "the year of 1931-32 while fraught with many difficulties, mostly financial, was one

of progress and worthwhile accomplishments." The membership was listed as 31,432 a gain of 1,314 over the year before.

New churches had been organized at Madison, Ewing and Red Cloud. J. J. Hutchison served as president, and fifteen different people worked under the direction of the state board. Missionary, benevolent and educational interests were threatened with financial disaster. A resolution allowing the borrowing of money from the Trust Fund up to the limits set by the Articles of Incorporation was passed by the convention unanimously.

The Child Saving Institute - as all homes - had been put on a "regional basis" and "every tub was standing on its own bottom." This home had now been serving children for 40 years. Mrs. Alice H. Scott was presently superintendent.

Cotner College report contains the following: "Hard times have but deepened their (the students) purposiveness. The faculty have remained loyal and cheerful despite the shortage of salary payments."

During 1931-32 Women's Councils were coming into being here and there across the state, the WMS secretary listing nine such. This was a year of tragedy in the total missionary work. Nebraska missionaries as follows were recalled; Harold and Goldie Fey, Hallie Lemon, Harriett E. Young, Paul and Aletta Kennedy, Dr. and Mrs. Norton Bare, and Dale Ellis.

Abe Corey, Alexander Paul of China, Allen Huber of the Philippines, and Patrick Henry, state secretary of Texas, were speakers on the convention program, at Bethany Park.

Mrs. P. O. Marvel was elected president of the NCWMS and served as such until 1940.

The 66th convention, June, 1933 met at Bethany park, Gardner Miller president. The nation and state were still in the throes of the depression. Ministers salaries were being greatly reduced, and many were far in arrears. The state budget was cut at the beginning of the year nearly 50% but at that had fallen far behind. The "all absorbing problem of the new board was the $3,000.00 deficit."

Cotner College found that dwindling income and accumulated indebtedness made it impossible to finance another year's program within the expected income, thus making suspension unavoidable. Hopes were held that with an economic upturn and the earnestness of the desire for the re-establishment of Cotner's program, there could be a future re-opening for classwork. A conservation committee had been appointed charged with the maintenance of every possible factor - to proceed so as to avoid litigation and waste of assets - to serve without pay.

The NCWMS budget, already small, was cut from $1300.00 to $1000.00 making it necessary to cut the executive secretary's salary. The first World Fellowship Meet was held at Giltner on May 7, 1933. This proved to be such a success that many more have been held since, for many years sponsored by the NCWMS. In 1943 these meets became the responsibility of the department of Christian Education.

The Quiet Quest, inaugurated in 1927, reported the permanent funds of the NCMS had grown to $21,493.20.

The future work committee recommended that in all our churches where it was at all feasible, and where they did not have a more effective plan, the "Penny a Day" plan for state missions be inaugurated. This would have amounted to $3.65 per capita. Inasmuch as Nebraska Disciples had given but 11 1/2 cents per year - i.e. a penny a month with two weeks off for vacation, this would be quite an advance.

1934 saw the beginning of crop failures because of the severe drouth across Nebraska, but the 67th convention was held in June at Bethany Park. Wayne Greene was president.

Cotner College had called Raymond Aylsworth to the presidency to see what could be done about opening the college for classes again. But these were the days of NRA and WPA and a further tightening of financial matters.

Many churches had to be closed, not because they were not needed, but because there was no money to support them. Others were without ministers for the same reason.

The program of Voluntary Evangelism was to be continued in the state.

The NCWMS presented a pageant depicting 60 years of history of the CWBM and WMS, state and national, at the convention. The society did not reach its goals financially, but by means of the Anniversary Crowns the giving was lifted almost one thousand dollars above that of last year.

The year 1934 - Nebraska's skies were still burnished brass, and the rain clouds had nearly disappeared altogether. "Black blizzards" - dust clouds raced across the land, and buried fences, wagons and farm equipment. It was reported that 200,000 people left Nebraska and had moved to the west coast, along with those from other midwest states. This meant of course that many many homes and dozens of churches had been abandoned. It seemed that everyone was "on relief" of one kind or another. Dark days indeed to try to reopen a college or carry on state work.

But in spite of deficits, the 68th convention was held in June, 1935. The churches were urged to support the program of Unified Promotion which was going into effect July, 1935. C. O. Hawley, director of Unified Promotion, had a place on the convention program, as did Bert Wilson of the Pension Fund; Virgil E. Havens, mis-

sionary to Africa; George W. Buckner, editor of World Call; and S. R. Bradley of the Board of Church Extension.

Genefrede Harris, was director of Religious Education in the northern area, of which Nebraska was a part.

Minatare which had started with such high hopes in 1929 was on the rocks. The state secretary reported that when attempting to hold a meeting there "he was frozen out both literally and figuratively. The Thermometer registered 25 below and the spiritual thermometer registered about the same." Geneva had been re-organized, and at Sutherland re-opening was attempted after having been closed for many years.

T. V. Hubbell served as president while the matter of making the CHRISTIAN REPORTER self-supporting and the increasing deficit in state funds were plaguing the board.

The NCWMS held missionary rallies in several areas of the state with Edna Poole of Bolenge, Africa the missionary.

The 69th convention was held at Hastings, June 1936. R. B. Fouts of Beatrice, was president. John G. Alber in his 14th report as state secretary stated "These have been times of great distress in many of our churches. A spirit of defeatism has captured many a disciple."

THE NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN was born, the convention issue of the new paper being distributed at the convention, but its first real issue came out in September 1936. THE NEBRASKA TIDINGS and THE CHRISTIAN REPORTER ceased publication and the state now had one state paper. THE TIDINGS had been published for 21 years.

The Child Saving Institute reported 133 Nebraska churches had some part in the work of the institution.

Young people's summer conferences were held in the summer of 1936 and eight one-day conventions, Dr. Dye, pioneer missionary to Africa, serving in the latter. Mrs. Rosa Brown Bracey, secretary of Missionary organizations of Negro Churches, also traveled across the state.

In 1937 when the 70th convention was held in June with the Beatrice Church, things were looking up. The deficit of $3500 had been paid in full and the treasury had a balance of over $2000.00. Belvidere had been reorganized after having been federated with the Methodist church for some years.

Miss Louise Lomax had written an historical pageant covering 70 years of state work, which was presented at the convention and brought forth commendation for her work.

B. Erroll Parish was president, and convention speakers were Stella Tremaine, missionary to China, and Dr. A. W. Fortune.

The Bylaws of the NCWS were again amended at this convention - a perennial business matter, it seems. There were 25,211 resident members in our churches, and the giving to Unified Promotion was listed as $17,412.00.

Kearney church was host to the 71st convention June, 1938 with Hugh Lomax president. Dr. F. D. Kershner chief guest speaker. Church Smiley was guest missionary. Says the editor of THE NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN, "It was a good convention." The registrations totaled only 210, a considerable drop over 1937 when 700 registered.

Economic conditions were still making "it a hard year." One church out of every five in the state had received financial aid from the state missionary society the past year.

W. S. Lowe was called from a pastorate at Falls City to be pastor evangelist on the state staff.

The Year Book was cut considerably as to size and the NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN was to continue as a semi-monthly paper of the Nebraska Brotherhood.

The board of the NCWMS held a retreat in the Lincoln Tabernacle Church in January of 1938. The meeting proved to be a very profitable occasion.

Mary E. White, executive secretary of the NCWMS, was injured in a bus accident when returning from a period of duty in South Dakota on April 15, 1938. This necessitated a leave of absence from her work until April 1939. In the interim, Mrs. Marvel, president, carried the work of the executive secretary.

Fairbury was the meeting place of the 72nd convention in 1939, with Dewey I. Meranda, president. It was at this convention that the figure "76" enters the picture in regard to the numbering of the convention. The motto selected was "Keep the Spirit of 76 Alive". The Cotner College banquet was called the "Seventy-six Banquet" and THE NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN announcing the convention carried the headline in large type "76th STATE CONVENTION". So from this convention - in this history - we shall skip the four year difference in numbering.

Dr. Roy C. Snodgrass was convention speaker and Dr. Virgil Sly of the UCMS also had a large part on the program. Bertha Clawson, missionary, and Helen Spaulding, youth worker, were part of the program.

The year preceding the convention was still a year of corn crop failure and there was much discouragement among the churches, many churches having suffered greatly because of removals of members to other parts. Pastoral unities were being formed where possible so that many churches unable to support a minister, could be served. W. S. Lowe was still serving as pastor-evangelist.

The total receipts had dropped to $9,544.95 for the year, but there was a balance in the treasury at the close of the year.

The NCWMS held a women's retreat at the Aurora Church with 43 registrations from 16 churches, with Miss Mayble Epp guest speaker and Dr. Bertha Thomson, missionary guest. This was held July 12-14, 1938.

Six World Fellowship meets were held during the year.

THE NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN which had started as an eight page paper was cut to four pages for financial reasons, and the Year Book was much reduced in size and content.

The 77th (new numbering) 1940 convention was held in Omaha, B. B. Baird, president. World War II clouds were appearing on the horizon, which caused the World Convention scheduled to be in Toronto, Canada to be postponed. Steamship reservations of the foreign delegates had been cancelled, and the buildings on the fair grounds at Toronto which were to have housed the convention, had been taken over by the War Department.

The secretaries were carrying on the work by visiting churches and societies over the state, promoting attendance at District conventions, Youth conferences, and World Fellowship meets, trying to keep the church membership enlisted in church work when there were many calls for "War Work".

The NCWMS conducted their 2nd Women's Retreat July 31-August 2, 1939 on the Curtis Agricultural School campus, with 42 registered from 15 churches. Local societies were holding Southern Christian Institute parties to raise money to pay for paint and varnish for the boy's new dormitory.

302 registered for the convention - a rather small number when there are some 25,000 members in the state - and 132 were registered from the entertaining church!

Kenneth Potee, India was missionary guest. H. B. McCormick, Bert Wilson, and James Crain also addressed the convention.

"Considering the pinch of finances common across the land in 1939-1940" the giving on the part of the Women's Missionary Societies and the Church was commendable.

Mrs. Fenner King was elected President of the NCWMS. Mrs. Marvel retired after having served eight years as president and two years as secretary of District IV, which district later was changed to District V.

Grand Island entertained the 78th convention in June 1941, Paul Becker serving as president. The Emergency Million campaign was being carried on across the brotherhood. Across the years of depression and drouth, we had gotton used to smaller things. This was an attempt to lift the vision, raise our sights and aim at higher goals. But the world was at war. Missionaries were being evacuated from mission lands. Some were being interned. War hysteria was sweeping throughout the length and breadth of our own country.

There were 138 churches listing a membership of 24,613. Additions numbered 1847 and the per capita giving for all purposes was $7.67. The plan of the districts was changed some, but there were still to be eight districts in the state.

A Convention on Wheels visited some thirty churches in the fall of 1940; John G. Alber and Dr. C. L. Pickett of the Philippins composing one team, and Miss Mary E. White and Miss Veda Harrah, India, the other. Miss Harrah's mother was taken ill and she was called home during these conventions and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Rice took her place on the team.

Willard M. Wickizer, Claude J. Miller and F. E. Smith appeared on the convention program. Miss Wenona Wilkinson, educator in China, and actively engaged in war relief work in China since the beginning of the conflict in 1937, an evacuee at the advice of our government until conditions permit her return, was the missionary guest. There were 254 registrations, 115 from the host church, 11 out of state, which leaves 128 from 42 churches. Ninety-five of the 137 churches in the state were not represented!

The NCWMS held their third, and last, state women's retreat on the York College Campus, August 5-7, 1940 with 51 registrations from 18 churches.

The 79th Convention was held at Hebron, June, 1942, with W. F. Kohl, president.

Early in the missionary year, tire and gas rationing was ordered by the government and all meetings had to be curtailed. The general secretary, John G. Alber, had spent much time in WPB and FHA offices, not to mention letters written to Washington, in endeavors to secure permits and priorities to proceed with building plans at North Platte and Wann, and the proposed White Chapel - a new church - at Bellevue.

It was Woman's Day, Dec. 7, 1941, early in the afternoon, that the tragic news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japan came over the radio. It was the day when "All over the world, lights went out." It brought reprecussions that swept the entire nation and reached to our mission fields.

Nebraska reported total received in cash and pledges in Emergency Million as $10,473.00; the goal for Nebraska being $19,400.

Dr. Raphael H. Miller, Mrs. Mae Yoho Ward and David A. Byerlee of the Congo mission participated in the program. Mr. Byerlee is a native Nebraskan claiming Grand Island as his birthplace.

The 80th convention was held at Aurora, in 1943, with the host pastor, F. H. Stephenson, also being the convention president. A measure of prosperity seemed to have returned to the state, though some meetings during the past year were cancelled because of continued rationing of gas and tires. One of those was the Women's Retreat which was to have been held on the Wahoo Luther College Campus in August 1942.

The new church at Bellevue was in the process of being built. There were delays after the discovery that on the land on which it was to be built, there was a covenant that only residences would be permitted to be built upon this lot. This required much labor and many affidavits to quiet the title. In the meantime new priorities had been established by the War Production Board, limiting all such construction to $1000.00, so the application which had been in Washinton for sometime was rejected. The case was appealed and won, but by this time winter weather had stopped construction and before much more could be done, rains had set in. But at the time of the convention, the basement at least had been finished.

A number of churches declared themselves as having been able to clear up their debts and mortgage burnings were the order of the day. The Quiet Quest was still in the picture.

A. J. Hollingsworth was serving as director of church development in the fields of evangelism, religious education, and stewardship. The president had visited and spoken at each district convention.

Mrs. A. G. Henderson, missionary to Africa, who had been the victim of the "Zam Zam" sinking and had just returned from a period of internment in Germany was the popular speaker on the convention program. Her husband was still interned. Insisting that she was "still enroute to Africa" she stirred the convention with her stories of heroism on the part of all missionaries.

206 from 50 churches registered, but as usual many others attended the different sessions but did not register.

Auburn entertained the 81st convention in 1944. Harry Parsons, president. There were 196 registrations from 47 churches.

Mr. Alber had resigned as state secretary on Feb. 29, 1944 to take effect June 30, 1944, closing 22 years of service to Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Stephenson resigned as editors of THE NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN, having served in that capacity since its first issue at the convention in 1936. The paper had reached a total of 1200 paid up subscriptions.

Mrs. Fenner King closed four years as president of the NCWMS and Mrs. F. H. Stephenson was elected to that office. Miss Genefrede Harris was director of religious education, sharing time with Iowa. Miss Mary E. White, secretary of the NCWMS was granted a leave of absence of five months during the year, during which time Mrs. King carried on adinterim.

General receipts were up to $18,443.28. Out-of-state speakers, were Fay E. Livengood, India; Wm. T. Pearcy, James Sugioka, and Dr. John L. Davis of Indianapolis.

The 82nd convention was held at Beatrice, June 10-13, 1945, Charles Livingston, president, and Floyd Allan Bash guest speaker. Austin J. Hollingsworth was acting-state secretary.

The convention went on record during this convention "commending the move to re-establish the program of ministerial training of Cotner College in conjunction with the Nebraska College of Agriculture" and the trustees were authorized to buy the

property on the corner of Idylewild and Holdrege, Lincoln for a future home of the school.

The Bower church 10 miles north of Fairbury, organized in 1869 in a sod house, was sold the past year, closing the history of an honored and influential church.

Arrangements made the past year resulted in Nebraska having half the time of the Field Director of Christian Education, Miss Genefrede Harris, the other half to be with the First Christian Church, Beatrice.

Mrs. Ray Rice was student counselor of The Nebraska Christian Foundation. The enrollment of Christian Church students was very small for the year 1944-45 and practically the total enrollment was girls, with the exception of a few seventeen year old boys. Mrs. Rice reported that "even among the girls there was a spirit of restlessness and uncertainity that made it very difficult for them to settle down to any definite program." Why? The world was still at war.

Crosses were placed on the NCWMS service flag for missionaries Dr. Donald T. Rice and Ruth Pestal Rice, soon to go to India. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lemmon home on furlough from Paraguay, S. A. and Dale Ellis were on the program. The Don Rice's with their baby daughter were the first United Christian Missionary Society missionaries to go from Nebraska since 1929. The Lemmons returned to South America in February 1946.

The 83rd state convention was held at Gering, June 11-13, 1946, N. F. Horn, president. Out-of-state speakers included Dr. Alexander Paul, missionary 48 years to China; Loren Lair, associate director of Unified Promotion; Dr. J. Eric Carlson for N.B.A....

Cotner College, which suspended its educational program in June 1933 had called P. R. Stevens to become its president and lead in its re-organization, with the intention of re-opening for the fall term in 1946.

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Child had taken over the editing of THE NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN, with the September 1945, issue - Vol. 10 No. 1.

The NCWMS decided to hold no women's retreat this year, but to cooperate with the committee on Christian Education in holding an adult conference in July 1946 to be held in Milford, Nebr.

A. J. Hollingsworth had been promoted from Acting Secretary to the office of State Secretary, retroactive to July 1, 1945. T. V. Hubbell was serving as state evangelist.

Following the convention a state committee for "Crusade for a Christian World" was chosen. Not only were money goals set, but Program Activity Goals, including Evangelism, Sunday School Enrollment, Trained Leaders, Stewardship, and The Christian Home.

North Platte played host to the 84th convention, A. L. Cole of Omaha president, June 16-19, 1947. On the convention program were George R. Davis, C. O. Hawley and Church Smiley.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Holverson came as editors of THE NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN with Vol. 11, No. 1, September 1946. Miss Harris had resigned as director of Christion Education and Mrs. P. O. Marvel was chosen to serve as acting Director, beginning March 11, 1947. Mrs. Raymond Benson became director of student work on the University Campus, to begin July 1, 1947.

The NCMS was giving $400.00 per year to the support of the Nebraska Council of Churches; $900.00 to the support of The Nebraska Christian Foundation and $25.00 per month toward the support of THE NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN.

During the Convention Church Smileys were presented $2,055.49 toward the purchase of "A Jeep for Christ in India with Church Smiley Driving It." California church people provided the remainder of the funds necessary for the purchase of the jeep and for transportation to India.

Bellevue, the mission church, had continued to receive support. During the past four years, the Chapel structure costing more than $15,000 was completed and

equipped. The infant church had experienced three changes of community population trends, but had made substantial growth. Grants of $150.00 per month were being made in an effort to conserve the gains, and make more substantial the foundation upon which the church had been built.

There were 328 paid registrations representing 53 churches.

State Secretary, Mr. Hollingsworth gave an address at this convention "Eighty years of Organized Life in Nebraska", yet the convention was numbered the 84th in publicity and program. Mrs. J. R. Kenner was elected president of the NCWMS.

The 1948 convention, the 85th, met at Kearney, E. Phil Dubbs, president. G. Gerald Sias, director of the "Crusade", Dr. Roy C. Snodgrass, Miss Agnes Fishbach, Paraguay, S. A., were convention guests.

Howard Holverson had begun as director of Christian Education on June 1st. Claude Breidenthal became editor of THE NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN upon the resignation of Mr. Holverson to become Director of Christian Education.

Cotner College reported having finished a "good first year" and that they had dormitory facilities for 26 men.

Mrs. Albert Burt became the president of the NCWMS and served until 1951.

In October of 1947, a caravan trip, called "the Church Smiley Crusade" caravan visited eleven areas, with representatives from 65 different churches attending the meetings.

Beginning with the 1948 Year Book, the International Convention granted the Nebraska state secretary the privilege of photographic reproduction of the pages pertaining to Nebraska from the National Year book, and has since continued so in the Nebraska Year Book.

The 86th convention was held in the First Christian Church, Omaha, June 1949, Harry Sackett, Beatrice, president. Dr. Gaines M. Cook, executive secretary of the International Convention, Glynn B. Adsit, missionary, and Wm. McKinney of the Department of Men's Work, were out-of-state speakers. 435 were registered.

Mrs. Raymond Benson, director of student work on the University of Nebraska Campus, reported there had been from 350 to 400 Christian Church students during 1948-1949, a great increase over the war years.

Cotner College had secured "Cotner House" at 1237 R St., Lincoln, for use of all students taking classes. One hundred thirty one "old" and "new" Cotnerites attended a dinner on May 20th, the first of such annual occasions, in the new Cotner program. This convention merged the Nebraska Christian Foundation with Cotner College.

The youth conference and camp program had grown so that now four Chi Rho camps were planned and three young people's conferences. Also an Adult conference was held at Peru with 65 registered.

The 87th convention met at Hastings, June 18-21, 1950, Lowell C. Bryant, president. Out-of-state speakers were Paul D. Kennedy, missionary to the Philippines; Dr. Henry Noble Sherwood, president Board of Higher Education; Misses Lucile Ford and Hallie Lemon, Nebraska missionaries. Rosa Page Welch, nationally known soloist, Chicago, Ill. led the convention music and served as soloist. There were 808 registrations of which 700 were from out of town.

This had been the third year of special effort known as "A Crusade for a Christian World" and total cash received as of March 31, 1950 was $93,815.76, or 61% of the financial goal.

Both Miss Mary E. White, executive secretary of the NCWMS and Austin J. Hollingsworth, state secretary of the NCMS, were closing their work as the state executives. Miss White who had served since February 1, 1927 had accepted the secretaryship of Tennessee. Mr. Hollingsworth, while retiring as secretary remarked

"that I have no intention of laying down my call for the ministry. That was a dedication for life. . . . . "

Mrs. Neoma Kohl Beal had become superintendent of the Child Saving Institute during the past year. Mrs. Alice H. Scott retired after 18 years as superintendent.

Three Nebraska girls had dedicated their life to full-time Christian service: Alice Rist of Humboldt; Thelma Murphy of North Platte at Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, Mississippi; and Bessie Myers, Fremont, state children's worker in Indiana.

Mrs. Fenner King of Lincoln was chosen to serve as secretary until a new secretary of the Nebraska Christian Women's Fellowship could be installed.

This year was significant in the development of the women's program and organization which resulted in the adoption of a Constitution and Bylaws for the Christian Women's Fellowship of Nebraska. The women's work had graduated from The Christian Woman's Board of Missions, and the Nebraska Christian Woman's Missionary Society, and was now to be known as The Nebraska Christian Women's Fellowship.

Plans were projected by Cotner College for a new building at 1237 R St., Lincoln. Mrs. Raymond Benson for three years Director of Student work resigned.

In 1951 the 88th Convention met at the First Christian Church, Lincoln with 881 registrations from 55 churches. Lowell Bryant, elected for a second term as president at the last convention, had gone from the state, and H. H. Utterback, vice-president, and Emmett Haas, president of the state board, presided.

On August 29, 1950 a call had been extended C. C. McCaw, of Grand Island, to serve as state secretary. He accepted, to begin his work October 1st.

At this convention the unification plan for all the state work was adopted. A restudy committee had been working on this since the 1949 convention. The new name for the state society became THE NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

The Christian Women's Fellowship, The Christian Men's Fellowship, and Christian Education became departments of the total work. Now for the first time in the history of Nebraska Christian Churches, an effort was to be made to maintain, insofar as possible, an equal number of men and women on the board at all times.

Claude Breidenthal, editor of THE NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN, had moved from the state. Mrs. P. O. Marvel edited the June, 1951 issue. The paper had now been published 15 years.

Mrs. W. V. Delehoy was in the convention, and would begin as the secretary of the Christian Women's Fellowship on July 1, 1951.

Lola Raver (Mrs. W. V. Delehoy) was assigned by the U.C.M.S. as a teacher in Jamaica after preparation at the College of Missions. Illness and death in the family kept this assignment from fulfillment. Later she served four years as a teacher in the Home Mission School, Southern Christian Institute, at Edwards, Mississippi. Much later, July 1, 1951, she joined the executive staff of the Nebraska Fellowship of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ).

On the convention program appeared Dr. Paul G. Preston, Dr. Jesse M. Bader, Dr. Harold G. Barr, and Harry Hines, all out-of-state speakers. Pauline Starn, one of the last missionaries to be evacuated from China during World War II, served as missionary guest.

Mrs. C. O. Darner was elected president of the CWF. Emmett Haas was elected president of the Nebraska Christian Fellowship and Mrs. Albert Burt, vice-president. During the year a parsonage had been bought for the state secretary. Crusade offerings had reached a total of $151,563.52.

The 89th Convention was held at Fremont, June 15-18, 1952, Emmett G. Haas, president. H. L. Turley, of the Pension Fund; Dr. O. L. Shelton, Dr. and Mrs. Don Rice, Nebraska Missionaries to India; and Miss Margaret Lawrence, Missionary to China, were out-of-state speakers.

Lloyd Hippensteele, Beatrice, edited THE NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN from July, 1951 to January 1, 1952 when Miss Nelle Gingles became editor. Mrs. P. O. Marvel resigned as business and circulation manager, effective January 1, 1952, having served as such since the paper's first issue in June, 1936. Mrs. E. L. Fisher took over that job.

We quote from C. C. McCaw, state executive secretary's report: "The unification of our departments of Nebraska Christian Women's Fellowship, Nebraska Christian Men's Fellowship, and Christian Education with the establishment of the functional committees covering the whole program of Christian work on a state level bids fair to revolutionize the whole program of state work. We have yet to learn how to meet the financial program of the state and how to conserve our membership increase. During the last missionary year we have added 1,651 members, but closed the year with 107 less members than were reported the year before. We lost 1,758 members. That figure is equal to losing three churches the size of Grand Island Christian."

Cotner College had held its first "Timothy Day" with 46 ministers and young people attending, in an effort to create an interest in the Cotner courses for young people interested in church vocations.

Every cooperative church in the state had received a visit from one or more members of the executive staff during the year in the "Every Church Visitation" plan.

The Nebraska Christian Men's Fellowship, under the guidance of Elmer A. Yates as president, had held men's conferences in each district convention and sponsored Jack Sutton's visit to the state, during which time six rallies were held.

Aurora entertained the 90th Convention on June 14-17, 1953, Mrs. Albert Burt, president. (The first woman to hold that honor in Nebraska.) Emmett G. Haas was serving as executive secretary of the Department of Christian Education; Mrs. W. V. Delehoy, executive secretary of the Christian Women's Fellowship; and C. C. McCaw, executive secretary of the Nebraska Christian Fellowship.

District 1 and 2 had been combined, and a small change was made in Districts 4 and 5. A tornado had completely destroyed the Hebron Church on May 5th, 1953 and other churches in the state were contributing funds to build a new church there.

There were nearly 1000 registrations at the convention with Dale Fiers, president of the United Christian Missionary Society; Howard Short, of the College of the Bible; and Hal E. Heimer, a native of Hebron and missionary to the Belgian Congo listed among the speakers.

On the recommendation of Harley Smith, president of the Board of Higher Education, Cotner College (its legal title) has used the title Cotner School of Religion to describe its academic program in connection with the University of Nebraska, and its "president" became known as "dean." It was also on the recommendation of Dr. Smith that all degrees are granted by the University of Nebraska.

During the past year, trustees of the Cotner School of Religion had authorized the drawing of plans for a $50,000 brick building in front of the present building at 1237 R Street, Lincoln. More than $40,000 of the $50,000 had been raised. The present enrollment is 50, 13 of whom are ministerial students and 5 others studying for other types of Christian service.

Mrs. J. M. Packer was elected chairman of the Christian Women's Fellowship and served two years until June, 1955.

91st convention, held at Bethany Christian Church, Lincoln, June 10-13, 1954, Joseph A. Houston president, with 1500 registrations. As this was "Stewardship Year" that was the theme stressed in all addresses and conferences.

After months of planning and building, the board of trustees of the Child Saving Institute had set Nov. 15, 1954 for the dedication of the new wing. Much remodeling also had been done on the present building.

The Convention authorized the purchase of an office and resident building to be known as the NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP HOUSE.

Cleveland Kleihauer, president of the International Convention, gave four addresses. Other out-of-state speakers were Dr. Loren E. Lair, Iowa Executive secretary; Dr. Jesse Bader; Miss Wenona Wilkinson; Dr. William Hall; and Mrs. Alice Rist Langford.

Hebron reported that nearly $4000.00 had been received from sister churches to help build their new church to replace the one destroyed by the tornado.

The Christian Women's Fellowship presented a gift of $1400.00 to apply on the "Capital for Kingdom Building" project of the brotherhood. Miss Helen Hall, and Mmes. Emmett Haas and W. V. Delehoy were commissioners to the initial meeting of the International Christian Women's Fellowship.

North Platte entertained the 92nd convention June 9-12, 1955, Mrs. P. O. Marvel of Giltner, President. Registration 1201.

The Bylaws of the Nebraska Christian Fellowship were changed so that beginning with the 1956 convention, the annual meetings would be held in April.

The 100th anniversary of the establishment of the First Christian Church in Nebraska at Brownville was observed in narrative and pictures at the Saturday evening session.

Out-of-state speakers included Dr. Elsie M. Farris, attorney at law, Long Beach, California, Dr. Hollis L. Turley, Pension Fund, Mrs. Mae Yoho Ward, Miss Martha Whitehead of the UCMS, Dean John E. McCaw, Drake Divinity school, Dr. J. Eric Carlson of the NBA, and Dr. Lin D. Cartwright, of the Christian Evangelist.

The new church at Hebron had been dedicated on January 9, 1955. Cotner College had dedicated its new $75,000 building on Dec. 5, 1954. Three churches in Lincoln were in a building program; Tabernacle, East Lincoln and First Christian.

Emmett Haas, state director of Christian Education, reported 185 youth and 26 counselors in two conferences, and 209 Chi Rho youth and 25 counselors in three camps.

Thirteen churches in the state were maintaining link relationships with missionaries serving in our co-operative world outreach program as of February 1955. They were: Alliance, Charles Story, Mexico; Aurora, A. Louis Harris, Africa; Beatrice, John Sams, Thailand and Ralph Tillery, Africa; Fremont, Mrs. John Sams, Thailand; Grand Island, Maxine Burch, Africa; Hastings, Mrs. Ned Roberts, Africa; Kearney, Hertercene Turner, Mexico; Lincoln Bethany, Mrs. Robert Lemmon, Paraguay; Lincoln First, Mrs. Leonard Brummett, Philippines; Lincoln, Tabernacle, Mrs. Charles Johnson - Africa; North Platte, John Sams - Thailand; Omaha First (Golden Link) Mrs. Ray Rice - India; Haldor Heimer - Africa; E. G. Luna - M.C.I. (Home); Omaha North Side, Mrs. Paul Andrews - Argentina.

The CWF love gift receipts were $2,090.76; Capital for Kingdom Building gifts, $519.44; other undesignated gifts $2,628.32. These with the regular offerings of $18,403.84 total $21,032.16. The CWF held eleven institutes for training of officers and cabinet members, reaching a total of 410 women.

Announcement was made of the resignation of C. C. McCaw as executive secretary, effective October 1, and that Emmett Haas had been secured to take that office.

With Emmett Haas accepting the Executive Secretary position in the Fellowship this left a vacancy to be filled in the Department of Christian Education. Thus, it was at the beginning of the yearly emphasis on Christian Education, that Miss Oma Lou Myers, who had been serving for ten years in the program of Weekday Religious Education for the Portland Council of Churches at Portland, Oregon, was called to serve Nebraska as the State Director of Christian Education. She began her duties on September 15, 1955. It was during the 93rd Annual State Convention, which convened at Nebraska City, in April 26-29, 1956, that Miss Myers was ordained to the Christian ministry. Reverend Earl Seitz, minister of First Christian Church at Alliance, was serving that year as president of the convention. Reverend Grover Thompson, minister at Fairbury, was chairman of Christian Education.

The Area Assembly (national) was held in Omaha, October 9-11, 1955, with 502 registrations from 36 Nebraska churches.

Nebraska churches had reached doubled giving in five years. They gave $75,157.75 in 1954-1955, going over the goal of $1,612.75.

Scottsbluff had dedicated its new building on January 28, 1956, the cost approximating $230,000.

During the year, the Nebraska Christian Fellowship had moved into the new state office at 1268 South 20th St., Lincoln. The two-story brick building which was a former residence had been remodeled and redecorated, and provided ample quarters for the Fellowship. Dedication services had been held on May 17th, 1956.

Mrs. J. R. Kenner, of Hebron, was elected chairman of the CWF, but resigned February, 1956 and Mrs. R. V. Myers, of Grand Island, became chairman serving through the 1958 convention.

Out of state speakers at the 1956 convention were Dr. Harold L. Lunger, Tucson, Arizona; Dr. Samuel F. Pugh, George Oliver Taylor, Walter J. Lantz, of the United Christian Missionary Society; Mrs. Ralph Tillery, Belgian Congo missionary; James H. Tilsley, Colorado Christian Home; Gilford Olmsted, Drake University; Mrs. Rus-

sell C. Putnam, Ohio, first president of the International Christian Women's Fellowship.

The 94th Convention was held at Scottsbluff Christian Church, April 25-28, 1957; Grover Thompson, president. Convention personalities included Lawrence W. Bash; Jessie M. Trout, vice-president United Christian Missionary Society; Spencer Austin, Unified Promotion; Dwight E. Stevenson, College of the Bible, Lexington, Kentucky; Leonard Sammon, National Benevolent Association; Orval Walker, Drake Divinity School; George Earl Owen, United Christian Missionary Society.

During the year, the first Family Camp was held over Labor Day week-end in 1956, at Westminster Camp Grounds, Lexington, Nebraska. In the intervening years 65 families have attended.

It was during this year also that Single Young Adults held their first weekend Retreat, and the High Schoolers had their first State CYF Convention at Hastings, Nebraska, with 285 in attendance.

During the convention, a service of recognition of 44 Life Recruits then in training for the ministry, missionary service, or in the field of Christian Education was conducted by Robert Davis, University pastor, and Truman Christian, state CYF chairman.

The Articles of Incorporation were amended, and the name of the state organization was changed to THE NEBRASKA FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, Disciples of Christ.

Nebraska was reported to have a membership of 30,893 in 128 churches, accordint to the last International Convention Year Book. 1,043 additions were reported, but it fell several hundred dollars short of its Unified Promotion goal of $95,000 for 1956-57.

The 1957 Nebraska Year Book carried for the first time the projected plans of all the functional committees for the coming year, including the Departments of Christian Women's Fellowship, Christian Men's Fellowship and the Department of Christian Education.

Fred Sawyer, national Men's Worker, conducted a series of Men's Rallies in each district in November, 1957.

Mrs. C. W. Beason was elected chairman of the CWF, and Mrs. Verdia Burke continued as chairman of the Department of Christian Education.

The 95th Annual Convention met with the Kearney Church April 24-27, 1958 with Mrs. E. Phil Dubbs president of the NFCC. Reverend K. Edgar Harris, pastor of the First Christian Church at Alliance, was installed state chairman of the Christian Education cabinet.

Out-of-state program personalities included Dr. W. A. Welsh, Dallas, Texas; Dr. Orval D. Peterson, president of NBA; Dr. Harlie L. Smith, president of Board of Higher Education; Mrs. Mary Ollard, missionary to India; Miss Genevieve Brown, UCMS; Ray Henthorne, editor of FRONT RANK: Orval Walker, Drake Divinity School.

Following last year's state convention P. B. Cope, for 25 years field representative for benevolence and more specifically the Child Saving Institute, retired on September 1, 1957.

Robert Gipe, missionary to the Philippines, spoke at each of the district conventions in the fall months.

Gustave Ferre' of Vanderbilt University began as Dean of Cotner School of Religion in September, 1957.

The church properties of defunct churches at Waco and Exeter were sold in the fall of 1957. The state secretary remarked, "The disappearance of some of our churches from the rural scene of dwindling population points all the more strongly toward the need for building churches in areas where the population is increasing."

The Christian Women's Fellowship published their 78 (1880-1958) year history in March, 1958. Sixty-seven Nebraska women attended the first Quadrennial on Purdue University Campus, Lafayette, Indiana, in June, 1958.

Humboldt started a new $100,000 building early in the spring of 1958.

Emmett Haas resigned as state secretary in February, 1958, having served in that capacity since September 1, 1955.

It was during the summer of 1958 that the First All-Age-Level 10 State Regional Leadership School was held in Kansas.

Dr. David Kratz had begun as State Executive Secretary on August 1, 1958 and Keith Stephenson as student pastor, July 15, 1958.

Nebraska reported 500 additions by baptism and 324 otherwise, a total of 824 during the evangelistic emphasis, "He Is Able."

The gifts to Unified Promotion, for the year ending June 30, 1958, were 4.6% less than the previous year. Last year's undesignated giving was $88,768.51 compared with $93,058.15 the previous year. Christian Women's Fellowship gifts increased by more than $5,000.

The 96th Convention was held at the East Lincoln Christian Church, April 23-26, 1959 with Marion Morton, of Beatrice, president. There were 1270 registrations.

Out-of-state personalities on the program were Rev. Walter D. Cardwell, former missionary to the Congo, with the UCMS department of resources now; Dr. George R. Davis, Wichita Falls, Texas; Mrs. W. K. Evans, president of the International Christian Women's Fellowship.

The committee on restudy of the constitution submitted a lengthy document with the recommendation "that the document be accepted for study by the churches, and that the following schedule be adopted; 1959, preliminary document received by the churches; 1960, provisional approval by convention for one year of trial; 1961, acceptance of new constitution and bylaws."

Omaha Northside Church dedicated a new sanctuary on January 11, 1959.

With the retirement of Mrs. Martin as secretary and bookkeeper of the Fellowship, and with the need for additional help in the areas of Youth work and the program of the church in Town and Country, Mr. Lawrence L. Williams, then serving the Brock and Peru unity as minister, was called to the state staff January 1, 1960 to serve as Director of Church Development, which consisted of bookkeeping, business administration, director of the Town and Country Church program, CMF, and Camp Site Development. He has served as the business manager of the ever-expanding program of youth Camps and Conferences; the State CYF Convention and Annual CYF Planning Commission in the area of Christian Education, as well as the many facets of the total state program.

With Mrs. Vera Martin resigning as office secretary after nine years of service in that capacity, Mrs. Charles Svoboda took the position.

The 97th Convention was held at Alliance April 28-May 1, 1960 with Mrs. F. W. Rowe, Omaha, president. There were 550 registrations.

Mr. Kratz, in one report, remarked, "the hard winter is being blamed for a lot of things. Church receipts are reported low and attendance is down. . . . .Two of our Town and Country Church Institutes could not be held because of drifted roads."

Again the new constitution and bylaws were discussed and finally given provisional approval for one year of trial.

Out-of-state convention personalities included Dr. Spencer Austin, Unified Promotion; Dr. A. Dale Fiers, President of UCMS; Mrs. Arthur Landolt, vice-president of the International CWF; Miss Mable Metze, Department of Religious Education, UCMS; Wayne Greene, a former pastor in Nebraska, now of Oregon.

A new church was established at Kimball, Nebraska.

Gustave Ferre' had resigned as Dean of the Cotner School of Religion and Raleigh J. Peterson, Jr. chosen acting dean. Dr. Ferre' had been with the school two years. Cotner was beginning its 14th year since reactivation.

Lincoln First had installed "unique" windows. These windows tell the story of Jesus' life and teaching in symbols. One window portrays the symbols of the four gospel writers, flanked by symbols of the apostles, Peter and Paul. The Brotherhood window displays the symbol of the World Council of Churches. The sanctuary itself was constructed in 1958 at a cost of some $230,000. Completion of the sanctuary and window installation marked the first period in over thirty years that Lincoln First Church had worshiped in a sanctuary. Since 1927 services had been conducted in the auditorium of the educational plant.

Raleigh Peterson, Jr., who had been serving as acting dean of Cotner School of Religion, became the dean during the year, in fact on September 1, 1960.

Dr. David L. Kratz, executive secretary, died unexpectedly after only a short illness on November 2, 1960, which was a serious deterrent to the state work for a period. Lawrence L. Williams became acting secretary, until Norman R. Stacey began on July 1, 1961.

Hastings Christian Church entertained the 98th Convention on April 19-23, 1961, Reverend Ellis J. Votaw, president.

Out-of-state convention personalities: Mrs. Ralph Q. Adams, missionary to Paraguay; Mrs. Eric Carlson, and Mrs. Guin Ream Tuckett, of the Christian Board of Publication; Dr. Virgil Sly, of the UCMS; Walter Lantz, Department of Christian Education of the UCMS.

Mrs. Cecil Hughs was elected president of the Christian Women's Fellowship.

In February 1961 the Burt Lectureship for Disciple Ministers was established, to be administered through Cotner College.

Quite a number of Nebraskans attended the World Convention in Edinburg, among them Dr. and Mrs. D. L. Kratz and Mrs. W. V. Delehoy.

Mmes. Kratz, Delehoy and P. O. Marvel attended the Leadership Training Institute at Purdue University, March 5, 1961, in preparation for leadership of discussion groups in the Second Quadrennial of the Christian Women's Fellowship to be held in June. 68 women from Nebraska attended this Quadrennial.

Mr. Norman R. Stacey arrived early in July to assume the position of State Executive Secretary. Dual installation services were held: the service for the western part of the state at North Platte on October, 8; and the service for the eastern end of the state at East Lincoln Christian Church on October 15th, 1961.

Mr. Stacey had been a successful pastor in Kansas City, Missouri; Oklahoma City and Woodward, Oklahoma. Both he and Mrs. Stacey have held many state and national offices.

The 99th Convention was held in the First Christian Church, Lincoln, April, 1962. Mrs. T. V. Hubbell was president. Out-of-state speakers on the program were: Dr. Perry Gresham, West Virginia, president of Bethany College; Howard T. Holroyd, missionary to Mexico; Dr. Richard Lentz, UCMS; Charles Palmer, NBA; Samuel Pugh, editor World Call; Julian E. Stuart, Unified Promotion; and Mrs. Joseph Smith, former missionary to China.

During the year the New Church Advance campaign was launched to raise $400,000 to start 10 new churches in the "Decade of Decision." A contract for the purchase of a new location in Fremont was signed July 31, 1961. This was a plot of approximately two acres. Gerald Peters, associate minister of East Lincoln, was called to the ministry, beginning March 15, 1963.

Negotiations continued for the purchase of a five acre plot at 77th and A Streets in Lincoln.

A site was purchased for the new church at Kimball.

Bellevue dedicated its new $60,000 educational unit on July 16, 1961.

523 youth attended the 1961 conferences and camps during the summer.

The Yearbook carried the report that $227,946 had been received from all sources for World Outreach.

Nebraska was proud to have one of her native sons, Leslie R. Smith, elected president of the International Convention in October, 1961.

Keith Stephenson was appointed assistant professor of Biblical Theology at Cotner and Ralph Hays became University pastor during the year.

Wayne Greene, former pastor in Nebraska, now with the Department of Men's Work, UCMS, took part in a series of Men's Fellowship Retreats across the state in April, 1962.

Mrs. Wallace Lillie, Fremont, was elected president of the CWF.

At this 99th convention, the Constitution and Bylaws which have been a perennial, if not an annual, subject of discussion and decision of the Nebraska Brotherhood since its beginning in 1863, again was given considerable time on the program.

The new document was brought up-to-date to include the various changes made through the years. Some of the more significant changes were:

(1) The name and title of the executive secretary was changed to Executive Minister, and hereafter will be designated as such.

(2) The amount of debt that may be incurred was increased from $2,000.00 to $5,000.00.

(3) The former document stated "An effort shall be made at all times to maintain an equal number of men and women on the fellowship board," whereas the new Constitution states: "The membership of the board shall maintain a balanced ratio between men and women. An effort shall be made that the number of men and women shall not exceed the other by more than three."

(4) The executive committee formerly "shall consist of the four elected state convention officers, the department chairmen and three members elected by the Fellowship Board from its membership." It now reads as follows: "The executive committee. . . . . shall consist of the president, first vice-president, second vice-president, secretary, treasurer, chairman of the board of trustees and three members elected by the Administrative board from its membership."

(5) Whereas formerly the Fellowship Board elected or authorized the appointment of "functional committees", the new bylaws uses the terminology "functional departments". The former three departments, viz: The Christian Men's Fellowship, The Christian Women's Fellowship, and Christian Education will be numbered among the eight "functional departments."

(6) Cotner School of Religion and Child Saving Institute were given representation on the board of the Nebraska Fellowship.

(7) Representation by districts on departments.

(8) There shall be a chief administrative officer, the Executive Minister. The other executive staff persons shall be designated directors of departments.

The 100th Convention will be held in Beatrice, April 1963, Charles Livingston serving as president.

During the interim between the 1962 and 1963 Conventions, the following items are of note:

The McCook Church dedicated a beautiful and modern church building July 29, 1962.

Elwood completed a remodeling of the church building.

Nelson Christian Church rededicated a remodeled building.

First Christian Church, Grand Island, dedicated a beautiful modern building on a five acre site at the end of Fourteenth Street on December 9th.

Mrs. Ralph Edwards resigned as secretary and circulation manager of the Nebraska Christian after seven years of service. Mrs. Edward Kohl was employed to fill this position.

There were 1345 additions to the churches.

The 1962 Yearbook shows that $246,829 was given to World Outreach. This was $11.69 per capita, an increase of $1.42 over the preceding year.

Ron Byars, upon the completion of his seminary education in Yale, was ordained by his home church in Beatrice.

Gary Weeks, upon the completion of his seminary work in Phillips, was ordained by the Christian Church in Kearney.

Lola Delehoy received a 15 year pin in recognition of her service in the UCMS meeting in Los Angeles.

Cotner School of Religion purchased the building adjoining the Cotner parking lot, to be operated as a dormitory for ministerial students and students from Christian Churches.

A total of 525 young people attended the summer camps and conferences in 1962, with $821.95 contributed to the Christian World Friendship Fund.

Mrs. F. W. Rowe, former president of the NFCC, was one of five chosen to study, evaluate and recommend the future course of our work in the Congo. The group will leave the latter part of February.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman R. Stacey were elected as the Fraternal delegates to Great Britain. Mr. and Mrs. Stacey will attend the conference in Wigham, England August 3-8, 1963.

Southside Christian Church, Omaha, dedicated their recently remodeled building on January 13, 1963.